

Between THE Lines

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causes many to ask:

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Dame stand for?

CREATING COLAGE

Local chapter of group
for kids of LGBTs begins

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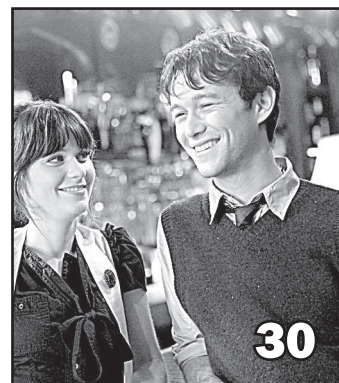
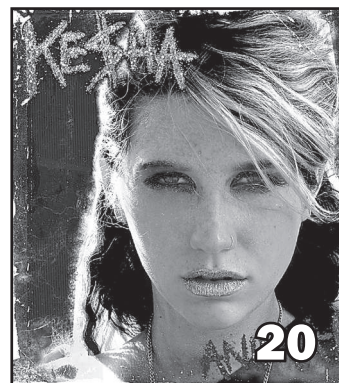
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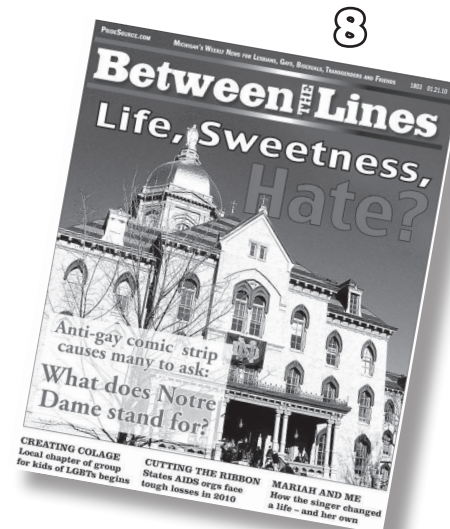
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Cover story



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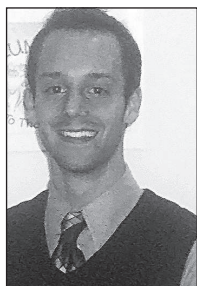


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Between Ourselves

by Jessica Carreras

Brian Kendall is a 20Something – and he's proud of it. The 26-year-old Warren resident was one of the founding members of the Affirmations group, which is looking to help all LGBT people in their 20s to get more involved in their causes and their communities.



Brian Kendall

1 20Somethings is having its first birthday in February. What are the plans to celebrate?

We will celebrate turning one with a hole-in-one! The festivities will begin Feb. 28 with a round of glow-in-the-dark miniature golf at Putting Edge Fun Center in Novi. Afterward, we will go to a nearby restaurant for dinner and, of course, birthday cake. During our first year, we established a solid group of members and expect to continue our growth in the following year.

2 We all know what age group 20Somethings is for – but what are you guys (and gals) really about?

We provide a safe space for LGBT individuals to socialize, contribute to the community, and discuss personal issues.

Thus far, we have engaged in a wide range of social activities like attending the Metra Picnic, participating in AIDS Walk Detroit, taking a hayride at the cider mill and playing laser tag.

As volunteering and activism are among our main objectives, we strive to give back to the community and, specifically, to Affirmations, which has been and will continue to be an invaluable asset to the community. The center has provided us with a home and the resources to make our group successful. In turn, we volunteer for their programs whenever possible. Recently, we helped with the holiday concert, but our pet project is the Pre-Pride Dance. Planning the 2009 Pre-Pride Dance was the first item on our agenda when the group was formed, and I look forward to planning this year's event.

In the spring, we will begin hosting group discussions for members to talk about coming out, homophobia, HIV/AIDS, being gay in the workplace and other age-relevant topics. Hopefully, this new element will foster even more unity within our group and provide our members with a strong support system.

3 How did you get involved with the group?

I responded to a survey Affirmations created to determine how to attract more

20-somethings to the center. Affirmations really entrusted us – the volunteers – to work out all of the programming to fulfill the needs of our age group. The center's resources and support, coupled with numerous interested individuals, enabled us to grow our membership dramatically. My biggest point of pride is that we have developed a strong sense of community from all the work we have done together!

4 Why is it important for younger adults to be involved in their communities?

It's important for younger adults to be involved in their communities because it gives them the chance to find camaraderie with others. It's very easy to become overwhelmed and feel alone when you're a member of the LGBT community living in a heteronormative world. But when there's visibility and positive action taking place, those feelings are replaced by pride.

I also think it enriches all of us to help advance LGBT causes. One of our biggest contributions was also the most challenging. In order to make it to the National Equality March, we had to tirelessly scramble the week before to get ourselves there. Group members sacrificed rest, showers, regular eating habits, and, in the face of it all, baked cookies to share with each other! Then, being at the march with hundreds of thousands of others who did the same was an incredible and inspiring experience.

5 Affirmations has a lot of programming for LGBT youth – how does 20Somethings help them transition into adult participation?

Affirmations began our group because they wanted to increase opportunities at the center for young adults. We currently attract a diverse group of individuals, some new to the area and some recently out of the closet. One of our goals for the upcoming year is to work more closely with Affirmations to provide a new home for those aging out of the youth program. Since 20Somethings provides programming aimed to address the new issues adulthood brings, many individuals seek us out to share their stories, hear those of others and create new ones with new friends.

Are you an LGBT or allied person age 18-33? Check out the 20Somethings at www.the20somethings.org.

Between Ourselves is a weekly feature that highlights members of Michigan's LGBT and allied community. To recommend someone for Between Ourselves, e-mail Jessica at jessica@pridesource.com

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Tightening the red ribbon

Michigan AIDS organizations feel sting of 2010 funding cuts

BY JESSICA CARRERAS

Several of Michigan's HIV/AIDS organizations may have a tough 2010.

As the Michigan Department of Community Health's HIV/AIDS Prevention and Intervention Section made their announcements in response to requests for funding, several organizations say they are feeling the hurt of the economy more than ever.

"Unfortunately, we have seen an increase in clients through the direct care side," said Leon Golson, director of prevention programs at Ann Arbor's HIV/AIDS Resource Center. "But their funding is getting tighter."

Worse than direct care funding, however, is the money coming in for prevention services.

Golson noted that out of over \$4 million asked for by state HIV agencies, only around \$2.5 million was available. In HARC's case, this meant that one of the grants they applied for asking for \$85,000 was completely rejected, while another for \$130,000 yielded them \$5,000 over that amount. "But of course," noted Golson, "there are a couple of added objectives that came with that increase."

Doing more with less appears to be the name of the game. The Michigan AIDS Coalition, based out of Ferndale, lost \$170,000 this year, compared to their 2009 award from the MDCH. Another \$80,000 will be gone in 2011, reported MAC Chief Operating Officer Craig

Covey. As a result, MAC had to cut hours and institute temporary layoffs for some, while also reducing advertising budgets and freezing wages for over two years.

But the biggest hits for MAC are coming to their programming. Covey said the organization will be losing several prevention programs, including the Popular Opinion Leader HIV education, Alcohol/Drug Awareness Prevention and Training and the Positive Perspectives speakers bureau programs.

"Like all organizations, Michigan AIDS Coalition is suffering from large budget cuts and reductions in donations due to the bad economic times," Covey said of the cuts. "In our 22-year history, we had never had to lay off staff members or had a payless payday. But even with the large cuts we are making to our budget now, we will continue to strive to protect the vital programs we provide to the GLBT community around HIV AIDS prevention and education."

As such, MAC CEO Helen Hicks added that the agency will strive to continue its prevention programming without the help of the MDCH.

Likewise, HARC plans to try to continue their prevention programming as best as possible, but admitted that some cuts are inevitable, such as with their incentives program, which offers cash awards to HARC clients who bring in others for testing and treatment. "We were funded to do (a referral program), but at the same time, there still isn't a whole bunch of money to increase

those incentives a great deal," Golson explained. "It is a heavily incentive-based program."

Prevention supply funding has also been sliced by HARC to fit their new budget, meaning less availability of such things as condoms, lube and literature on HIV and STDs.

Even HIV agencies in the state that have not seen the cuts HARC and MAC are struggling with are having to pinch pennies.

AIDS Partnership Michigan received grant increases of \$54,088 for 2010 and \$81,130 for the two following years from MDCH's HAPIS program. While APM Executive Director Barb Murray was happy to report state funding increases, she claimed that other areas of funding were still tough. "What has become difficult in the economic collapse, particularly with the automotive industry, is fundraising," Murray noted. "Most nonprofits have had this experience."

Hicks of MAC concurred, explaining that 55 percent of her agency's funds come from state and federal dollars, while only 10 percent comes from events and personal donations from individuals yield the smallest amount of their income at 5 percent.

As a result, MAC has begun holding monthly breakfasts, inviting anyone and everyone to come in and hear about the organization, in hopes that the community will feel more personally connected to them.

Golson simply stated that during such tough economic times, the key was for agencies to

remain committed to their ultimate goal: helping HIV-positive Michiganders. "I would ask for agencies to be encouraged and to try and keep the focus, as difficult as it is, on the important aspect of what we do," he said. "I think we should appreciate what we are able to do and what we do have and keep the focus on what it's all about, and that's providing services to those clients."

In our 22-year history, we had never had to lay off staff members or had a payless payday. But even with the large cuts we are making to our budget now, we will continue to strive to protect the vital programs we provide to the GLBT community around HIV AIDS prevention and education."

**- Michigan AIDS Coalition
COO Craig Covey**

SPEAK OUT

Liberty and equality for all

BY ERIC RADER



Liberty, equality and democracy have been America's guiding lights since the founding of the republic. Unfortunately, the United States has often fallen short of these ideals, and some leaders have

had twisted notions of what our values should be, especially in the area of foreign policy.

In the past year, the Obama administration has taken a number of steps to restore basic human rights to their rightful position within our nation's foreign policy goals. In doing so, the new administration has also sought to include LGBT Americans within the scope of our nation's ideals, in sharp contrast to some other countries.

One example of this new, more inclusive foreign policy was the lifting of the travel ban on people with HIV/AIDS at the beginning of this year. This cruel restriction was put into place by President Ronald Reagan, at the behest of Sen. Jesse Helms, in the late 1980s. It effectively prevented foreign citizens with HIV/AIDS from traveling to the United States. Even with the knowledge that HIV cannot be spread

The United States government needs to stand up to Uganda and its vile policies.

through casual contact, the United States government kept the travel ban in place until last year. President Bill Clinton attempted to reverse the ban in the 1990s, but was stopped by the conservative Congress of his era. Even President George W. Bush made some effort to ease this unreasonable restriction. Now, President Barack Obama and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton have fully reversed the ban. With the travel ban now repealed, the United States plans to host the World AIDS Conference for the first time since the height of the AIDS epidemic in this country in the early 1990s.

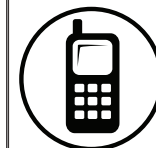
Last summer, Secretary Clinton took another positive step with regard to the LGBT community, ordering that the domestic partners of American diplomats overseas receive some of the same federal benefits as their straight counterparts; these benefits include travel privileges, diplomatic passports and the use of American medical facilities in foreign countries. The decision to grant these benefits marked an important first step towards ending federal discrimination against LGBT citizens. It's now up to Congress

and President Obama to finish this work by repealing the so-called Defense of Marriage Act.

But while the United States government has taken some positive foreign policy steps on behalf of LGBT Americans in recent months, Uganda has adopted a brutal approach towards its gay citizens. Uganda is currently considering legislation which would effectively "outlaw" homosexuality, meting out severe punishments of life in prison or even death to those found guilty of engaging in same-gender sexual activities. Uganda's repressive legislation was drafted after several American evangelicals spoke there last year about their "reparative therapy" ideas. It is clear that while these Americans did not suggest this legislation, their hateful ideas sparked the horrible proposals.

The United States government needs to stand up to Uganda and its vile policies. President Obama and Secretary Clinton have spoken out against Uganda's hateful legislation, but they need to continue to use every diplomatic tool in their arsenal to oppose Uganda's efforts and support LGBT folks in that country.

In the past year, the U.S. government has demonstrated that our foreign policy is based on inclusion. It is important that we stand in solidarity with our sisters and brothers in Uganda against the hate that American evangelicals have incited in that country. American foreign policy must be about hope, inclusion and basic human rights for all people.



President Obama can be contacted at president@whitehouse.gov, or by phone at 202-456-1414. Secretary of State Clinton can be reached at 202-647-4000.

Eric Rader teaches political science at Henry Ford Community College in Dearborn. His courses focus on American government and state and local government. From 2003-2004, Rader served as an assistant policy advisor in the office of Gov. Jennifer M. Granholm, focusing primarily on education and civil rights policy, including LGBT issues. He currently lives in Ferndale and is proud to be part of Michigan's LGBT community.



Building a beautiful COLAGE

Kids draw pictures of their families at the first metro Detroit COLAGE meeting, held Jan. 16 at Affirmations in Ferndale. BTL photo by Crystal Proxmire.

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

FERNDALE – Growing up, Lea Brown wasn't apt to tell people that she was the daughter of a lesbian. "No 13 year old wants their parents to have anything about them that is different," she says. "I didn't want to draw attention to it."

But as she got older, Brown realized the comfort and positive reinforcement that could come from meeting others in her situation. "It wasn't until I did an internship at COLAGE (Children of Lesbians and Gays Everywhere) in San Francisco that I really started to get excited and feel good about talking my family," she shares. "It was such an amazing atmosphere at Colage. It has shaped who I am and what my life is about."

Brown interned for two and a half months before coming back to Ferndale and taking the position of social and activities coordinator at Affirmations. In addition to administering several programs at the community center, Brown has decided to start the metro Detroit chapter of COLAGE so that young people in the community can share in the experience of LGBT families becoming friends.

COLAGE is a national group with local chapters throughout the U.S., as well as in Canada, Sweden and England. The organization's mission is to build a community of youth and adults with one or more LGBT parents, and to work toward equality and acceptance of their families.

The southeast Michigan group had its first meeting at Affirmations on Saturday, Jan. 16, which included a potluck dinner, activities for the kids and a discussion about the difficulties of being a gay parent.

Over a dozen youngsters, mostly ages 6-12, enjoyed making a poster with crayon drawings of their diverse families. "I made my family with a rainbow," said one little boy whose parents wished him to remain unidentified. "We like rain-

bows." Another drew all three of his mommys and one daddy. They also spent time decorating cookies and getting to know each other.

"COLAGE can offer whatever kinds of activities the community needs," said Brown. "There are some COLAGE groups with older kids that like to go out bowling, some groups that do things like go to the zoo or have parties, and there are groups of COLAGE that are kids in their 20s who meet and go to the bar. Every COLAGE group is different."

Brown set up the potluck to see what ages of children might come to such a group, and took time at the meeting to talk with parents about their needs.

In general, parents said they found it hard to find other gay-parent families with children the same age as theirs. "We don't know anybody else," said Janie Lara. She and partner Sarah Gesch said that raising their 12-year-old son Miles wasn't too difficult until he entered middle school. "This year has been the most challenging," Lara said. "This is the age everybody is defining themselves, and children are really judgmental of each other. It's hard." The couple hopes that by joining a group like COLAGE it will help Miles make friends that have the same kinds of problems as him, so that he has other people to open up to.

"There are others of us, but they don't all live in this area. My kids are the old gay family that I know about in our school district," said Lisa Malburg, a mother from Monroe Township.

Chapter leader Brown said that as a COLAGE intern she was able to watch how children of gay parents interacted and grew at summer camp. "At first the kids are angry and don't want to be there," she says. "But as they open up to each other you can see it. Someone says they've had an experience – like being bullied at school – and other kids relate to it and they naturally start to talk about it."

Parents also had concerns with how to deal

with bullying at school, knowing how open they should encourage their children to be, how much to tell the schools about their home life, and how LGBT parents feel pressured to raise

New local chapter of national organization gives LGBT Michigan parents and their kids a chance to connect

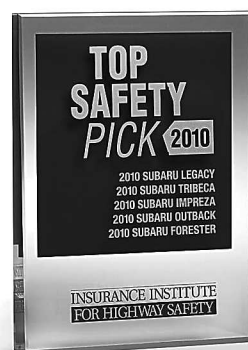
good children.

"It feels like there are people just waiting for us to mess up, so they can say gay parenting is bad," said one young mother. "It is a lot of pressure."

As the metro Detroit COLAGE chapter grows, Brown will be contacting parents to find out how often they would like to meet, and what types of activities they would like to have.

For more information about the newly forming metro Detroit COLAGE group, contact Affirmations Social Activities Coordinator Lea Brown at 248-398-7105 or by e-mail at rbrown@goaffirmations.org.

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Hak-Shing William Tam

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

You know what? If Gay marriage is just a ploy to get child rape legalized then to hell with it. Can I get an Amen? No? OK, how about a WTF?

This is one of the lunacy-based claims made by Hak-Shing William Tam, a defendant in the Prop. 8 lawsuit going on in California (the trial you've all been busy watching on television, right? Just kidding!).

In a letter to Chinese-American church groups in California during the 2008 campaign, Tam wrote that once you let gay people marry each other, they're going to go after kids next.

"On their agenda list is: legalize having sex with children," he wrote.

In a Jan. 14 blog post responding to Tan's claims, Dan Savage wrote, "Because, you see, once same-sex marriage is legal then, um, good people everywhere who oppose the rape of children ... will be too busy 1. reeling from the shock (good straight people) and 2. planning their bachelor/bachelorette parties and registering at Macy's (good gay people) to stop those all powerful radical gay child rape advocates from forcing the Legalize Child Rape Patriot Act through both houses of Congress."

Tan came to his bizarre conclusion after reading online about a gay rights meeting from 1972 where gays supposedly set their radical agenda for world gay domination in motion. Anti-gay folks love to hold it up as "proof." Granted, the majority of gays and lesbians have probably never read this document, but the contents of it are hard wired in the gay brain at birth. Or something. I don't know, I'm not a geneticist.

Personal experience also shaped Tan's views. In his deposition he said, "My daughter told me her classmates chose to become lesbians and experiment with it after they noticed that same-sex marriage, they think it is a cool thing."

Right. Nothing is cooler in junior high and high school than lesbianism. That's why all the girls are dyking it out in an effort to become head cheerleader and homecoming queen. It's just so easy to be gay in school. I feel sorry for all the straight girls who have to pretend, hanging posters of Melissa Etheridge in their lockers instead of Taylor Lautner.

But that's not all. He goes on to say, "They have some problem getting dates with boys, so same-sex marriage, since it is in the air, they think, 'Oh, why not try girls.'"

Woah there. First of all, girls aren't a dish at a tapas bar, and same-sex marriage isn't H1N1. That's just not how love, sex and relationships work. But, you know, thanks for playing.

Tam also wrote in his letter that if gays could marry in California, "other states would fall into Satan's hands."

Look, something tells me Satan doesn't exactly have a state-by-state strategy here. He isn't Karl Rove (or is he?). But Tam apparently wants to give a whole new meaning to the term "red state."

What's most galling about Tam is that he's trying to get out of the lawsuit, saying he wants to be dropped as a plaintiff because he doesn't want his personal views to become publicized. Hmm. Something tells me he should have thought of that before sending that letter.

Homophobic cartoon causes outpouring of anger, repercussions

Notre Dame paper apologizes, students react and editor resigns in wake of comic advocating anti-gay violence

BY JESSICA CARRERAS

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — An anti-gay cartoon run in the Jan. 13 edition of the University of Notre Dame and Saint Mary's College's independently-run newspaper, The Observer, has caused a backlash from students and LGBT advocates, resulting in a published apology and the resigning of the paper's assistant managing editor.

The comic, published under the name The Mobile Party and co-written by Notre Dame students Colin Hofman, Lauren Rosemeyer and Jay Wade, posed the question "What is the easiest way to turn a fruit into a vegetable?"

The cartoon's answer, "A baseball bat," has led many to believe that both the minds behind The Mobile Party and Observer staff are condoning violence against LGBT people. Specifically, that a baseball bat should be used to beat a gay person until they are in a vegetable state.

A call for action was immediately sent out to LGBT outlets across the nation by concerned students, including 32-year-old graduate student and queer ally Austin Choi-Fitzpatrick, who contacted Between The Lines about the cartoon. "This cartoon represents hate speech, plain and simple," Choi-Fitzpatrick said, lambasting the paper of the traditionally Catholic university. "Any hate speech should be reprehensible to Catholics, non-Catholics, non-Christians and non-believers alike."

Choi-Fitzpatrick went on to suggest that the university should "sever all ties" with The Observer and disassociate itself with bigotry in all forms.

Repercussions from what Observer Editor in Chief Jenn Metz has called a "mistake" have already begun to take place. On Jan. 15, both the editorial staff and The Mobile Party writers issued an apology in the paper.

"The Observer, through an independent newspaper, is representative of the community of the University of Notre Dame and the values it so cherishes: family, understanding, service respect and love," the staff published in its editorial. "Allowing this cruel and hateful comic a place on our pages disgraced those values and severely hurt members of our Notre Dame family."

Mobile Party writers contended that though their comic was certainly hurtful, it was actually trying to poke fun at the absurdity of homophobia and baseless hate. "We consistently try to write comics that rely on shock value and now that we have gone too far, we realize that we have abused the privilege," Hofman, Rosemeyer and Wade wrote, adding that "poking fun at someone's identity in such a discriminatory manner is not funny."

Past Mobile Party cartoons — both accepted and rejected by Observer editorial staff — have caused similar stirs among students, though none as extreme as with the anti-gay



"Opening up my acceptance letter to Notre Dame was one of the proudest moments of my life. But the violent, hateful comic ... represents the complete opposite of what I thought this university stood for. I'm now ashamed to be a Notre Dame student."

**- Notre Dame freshman
Patrick Gilbert**

cartoon. Past comics have made light of such issues as racism, swine flu, overweight women and rape.

Moreover, the original version of the Jan. 13 cartoon answered the fruit-to-vegetable question with a possibly even more politically incorrect answer: AIDS.

Several who wrote to The Observer following the publication of the re-written version noted that it was absurd for staff members to nix the AIDS version but OK the version of the cartoon advocating violence against gay people. "This is not a question of free speech," wrote the Gay and Lesbian Alumni of Notre Dame and Saint Mary's College. "If the editors weren't concerned with community standards, they wouldn't have rejected the first version of the cartoon. ... the decision to publish it demonstrates a serious lack of judgment."

Several responses went beyond that, contending that such actions effectively furthered violence and hate. "Getting a cheap laugh at

the expense of the abused, bashed, disabled, and even murdered not only belittles these horrific experiences, but encourages more violence," wrote professor of Sociology Daniel J. Myers.

"Opening up my acceptance letter to Notre Dame was one of the proudest moments of my life," wrote freshman Patrick Gilbert. "But the violent, hateful comic ... represents the complete opposite of what I thought this university stood for. I'm now ashamed to be a Notre Dame student."

"I can't begin to fathom how hard it is for members of the LGBT community to live at Notre Dame."

Members of the Core Council, Notre Dame's organization for LGBT students, chimed in as well, noting that they appreciated the apologies, adding that the school needs to "acknowledge the serious nature of the violent message of this 'comic strip' and its complete disregard to the dignity of GLBT persons."

Other actions stemming from the cartoon's printing included a statement released by Notre Dame President Rev. John Jenkins condemning expressions of hate at the university, as well as the discontinuing of Mobile Party comics in The Observer and on the group's blog, plus the resigning of Observer Assistant Managing Editor Kara King on Jan. 17.

"I was the final one to check the paper that night and am accountable for all of its content," said King, who chocked up the printing to a "miscommunication between herself and another editor."

"I cannot begin to quantify the humiliation in knowing that it is, ultimately, my fault."

Have an opinion on hate speech in comic strips? Send your thoughts to editor@pridesource.com.

Michigan Fairness Forum seeks project manager

The Michigan Fairness Forum – formerly the Peninsula Group – has an immediate opening for a part-time, independent contract project manager position.

The ideal applicant will have a diverse set of skills to advance and coordinate an innovative inclusive program to improve the quality of life for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people throughout the state of Michigan. The project manager will implement, refine, support and expand the infrastructure to support the organization's mission, vision and key initiatives. She or he will also provide resources, technical assistance and support to current and future members.

Primary responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Identify and recruit LGBT and ally organizations for membership.

- Coordinate collaborations between and among member organizations that support the key initiatives.

- Provide technical assistance to member organizations as identified by member organizations and key initiative dictates.

- Identify research and resources to support member organizations.

- Maintain and update Michigan Fairness Forum Web site, plus ensure relevance and usability as a tool for networking and resources procurement for member organizations.

- Provide progress reports to the board of directors and member organizations

- Organize and attend all board and regional meetings of the MFF, plus plan and coordinate workshops and annual summit.

The ideal candidate for this unique position will possess education and/or experience necessary to effectively fulfill the requirements. The candidate must have excellent oral and written expression abilities, is a self starter and intrinsically motivated to work independently. The project manager reports to the Board of Directors and serves the member organizations.

For exact necessary and desired qualifications, contact Pat Horton at hobay810@charter.net. To apply for the position, e-mail Pat your resume, references and a cover letter by Feb. 8. The selection committee will bring the top candidates before the Fairness Forum Board on Feb. 20 with an expectation of hiring by March 1.

U of M offers students, staff 'sexpertise'

The University of Michigan is hosting the second annual Sexpertise conference on Jan. 27-29 at its Ann Arbor campus.

The free series of events is open to all students, staff and faculty of U of M and will discuss relationships, communications, sexual health and sex, covering topics as diverse as casual sex, self-defense against sexual predators and sex for persons with disabilities.

The conference will kick off at 7-9 p.m. Wednesday at the School of Public

Policy's Annenberg Auditorium. The topic will be "No Strings Attached? A Conversation About Sex and Relationships on Campus" with special guest Wendy Shalit, author of "A Return to Modesty: Discovering the Lost Virtue."

Thursday's series of events will take place from 12:30-10 p.m. at the Michigan League, with various workshops, panel discussions, presentations and films throughout the day. Topics will include Internet dating; a survey of sexuality; sex,

alcohol and body image; sex and spirituality and more.

Friday's events will take place from 12:30-6 p.m. in the Michigan League. Topics will include sexuality and persons with disabilities; pleasure and self-love; monogamy and intercultural dating.

Sexpertise is presented by Sexperteam, a University Health Service peer sexual health education group. For more information, visit <http://uhs.umich.edu/sexpertise>.

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BTL EDITORIAL

Life, Sweetness, Hate?

The University of Notre Dame's motto is a beautiful message: Life, Sweetness, Hope. But apparently, it doesn't hold true for the South Bend, Ind., college's LGBT students.

A recent cartoon run in the school's independent – but student-run – newspaper, The Observer posed the question “How do you turn a fruit into a vegetable?” with an answer that has resulted in an editor's resigning, numerous letters to the editor and printed apologies from the cartoonists and the paper, as well as slews of negative press for the Catholic university. That answer – a baseball bat – has led many to believe that the students running the paper – and, in turn, the university that would allow such hateful jokes to go to print under its name – is not a friendly or safe place for LGBT students.

We at Between The Lines don't wish to waste time playing the blame game. Whether the running of the comic was a gross oversight or an error in judgment isn't important anymore. The comic ran, and whoever is to blame, it reflects on more than just one editor or one issue of The Observer.

The running of this comic shows a larger problem at the university – and, indeed, at many places of higher learning.

Notre Dame has consistently ranked as one of the least gay-friendly schools in the Princeton Review. Though it has groups for LGBT students and alumni, it is a school founded by and for Catholics, and that remains largely true today – though an applicant need not adhere to a particular religion.

However, setting aside history and foundation, the school does accept openly LGBT students, and does claim to value diversity within both its student body and its faculty and staff. The same is true for many other colleges, no matter where they fall on anyone's LGBT-friendly lists.

This comic advocating violence against gays says more about the atmosphere for LGBT students at Notre Dame than a statement from the president on the importance of diversity ever could. That is why apologizing and resigning and stating one's support does little to mend this situation.

But what does mere “acceptance” of LGBT students and faculty mean if there is no integration of pro-gay stances in the school's words and actions – including its newspaper?

This comic advocating violence against gays says more about the atmosphere for LGBT students at Notre Dame than a statement from the president on the importance of diversity ever could. That is why apologizing and resigning and stating one's support does little to mend this situation.

Instead, as several suggested in their letters to The Observer, this situation should underline the importance of the work done by LGBT groups at colleges like Notre Dame. Only through consistent education, programming and actions of support for LGBT people – not heartless “jokes” and perfunctory apologies – can Notre Dame and other schools like it actually live up to their grand statements of diversity, acceptance and love.

And someday, maybe all students can have their chance at Life, Sweetness and Hope – not hate.

VIEWPOINT

Just a twitch

BY NANCY SQUIRES

A few months ago, a historic vote took place in the Lutheran church. The largest Lutheran denomination in the U.S., the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, voted to allow non-celibate gays and lesbians in committed relationships to become ordained ministers.

This vote was a milestone. You may not think so if you're not a Lutheran; but consider: Most mainline Protestant churches continue to officially deny gays and lesbians the pulpit, unless they take a vow of celibacy. The ELCA's vote essentially means gay and lesbian clergy are under the same rules as govern their heterosexual brothers and sisters.

I'm not a Lutheran. But I grew up a church-going Protestant. And I'm painfully aware that much of the bigotry and discrimination that I continue to face as a lesbian is fueled by religious people and institutions. So I was following the considerable press coverage with interest.

I read that many participants at the assembly were in tears when the results of the vote were announced – tears of joy, in the case of gay and lesbian clergy and supporters. Others were in tears for a whole different set of reasons. Some wept because they felt “betrayed” by the vote. It was hard for me to understand how anyone could feel betrayed by seeing others obtain rights and privileges they themselves already have. Privilege and prejudice die hard, I guess (and are accompanied by wailing).

Some Lutherans interviewed were determined to leave the ELCA and take their Lutheran-ness with them – hoping to keep their religious identity and their prejudices. It's troubling to consider that for these people, homophobia and heterosexism are an integral part of who they are as Christians.

But of all the comments I read, by far the worst was this: a man wrote that he could not understand all of this uproar over “a twitch between the legs.”

A twitch.

A mere spasm, or a tic; a jerk of the muscles of no more consequence than, say, the movement of a horse's tail to displace a fly.

I'm not sure, but I don't think I've ever read a more horrifying characterization of sexuality than that – a twitch. To describe all of what we feel for each other, and all that we do associate with those feelings: the sacrifices, the struggles, the sharing, the commitment – to reduce all of that to the word “twitch.”

It was hard for me to understand how anyone could feel betrayed by seeing others obtain rights and privileges they themselves already have.

When I step back from my disgust for a moment, I find myself wanting to say to this person:

Listen – it's not about a “twitch.”

Let's just acknowledge, up front, that sexuality has a physical component – we are, after all, flesh and blood human beings. So it's about physical passion and attraction – but it's also about emotional connection. (Hasn't this guy ever heard a love song? Or read a sonnet?)

It's about empathy and understanding. It's about a shared life – pleasure and laughter, but also those long nights when you would be crying alone, if not for your partner beside you. It's about shared purpose – whether raising kids, taking care of aging parents, or simply cooking dinner. It's about commitment – getting through the arguments about paying bills or who left crumbs on the counter.

But then, he probably believes all of that – it's just that he believes it only for heterosexuals.

Some people are absolutely determined not to see the truth.

Whether gay or straight, our affectional lives are not about a “twitch.” And it violates us all, as human beings and as spiritual beings, when any of us is subjected to such a demeaning characterization.

I hope somehow this man arrives at a place where he can see that sexuality – everyone's sexuality – is a whole world more than just a twitch. And with this milestone vote in the Lutheran church, I'm beginning to hope that maybe, just maybe, some of the voices that eventually help him “see the light” are coming from within Christianity.

We may not be there yet – but I see a glimmer of hope.

Nancy Squires is a blogger and lawyer from Rochester Hills. Check out her blog at www.feisty-woman.blogspot.com

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

— First Amendment, U.S. Constitution

S/he said

COMPILED BY HOWARD ISRAEL

"Has anyone noticed that now that lesbians and gay men have left the closet to assert their equal rights as citizens, their adversaries seem to be running for a closet of their own?"

- Linda Greenhouse, in her blog titled "Into the Closet," about the success of opponents of same-sex marriage in persuading the Supreme Court to bar cameras from the courtroom where Proposition 8 is on trial, and the efforts of anti-gay marriage groups challenging the disclosure of financial contributions, <http://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com>, Jan. 14.



"Many of my fellow conservatives have an almost knee-jerk hostility toward gay marriage. This does not make sense, because same-sex unions promote the values conservatives prize. Marriage is one of the basic building blocks of our neighborhoods and our nation. At its best, it is a stable bond between two individuals who work to create a loving household and a social and economic partnership. We encourage couples to marry because the commitments they make to one another provide benefits not only to themselves but also to their families and communities. Marriage requires thinking beyond one's own needs. It transforms two individuals into a union based on shared aspirations, and in doing so establishes a formal investment in the well-being of society. The fact that individuals who happen to be gay want to share in this vital social institution is evidence that conservative ideals enjoy widespread acceptance. Conservatives should celebrate this, rather than lament it."

- Theodore B. Olson, high-profile conservative attorney challenging Proposition 8 in the Perry v. Schwarzenegger trial, in an opinion column titled "The Conservative Case for Gay," www.newsweek.com, Jan. 9.

"Continuing racial disparities in HIV infection more than two decades after the identification of the virus and availability of an accurate test are an indictment of the U.S. response to the epidemic. Existing interventions have failed to control the epidemic in African Americans in part because critical features of (socio)economics promote behaviors that transmit HIV and increase the risk of HIV infection, even among those who do not have high-risk behaviors. While individuals' sexual behaviors can contribute to the disparity in HIV prevalence, these differences in individual behaviors do not fully explain the marked racial differences in HIV infection prevalence."

- Adaora Adimora, professor of infectious diseases, University of North Carolina School of Medicine, in an article titled "Simply Black & White?," about her study that examines factors responsible for the racial disparities in HIV infection in the U.S., www.hivplusmag.com, Jan/ Feb 2010 issue.



"I'd love to be an assassin. Either that or a lesbian. Maybe both! Hey, a gay assassin, there's nothing hotter than that."

- Rihanna, pop singer, in an interview about her desire to play a provocative role in a movie, www.shewired.com, Dec. 8.

"Sounds ridiculous, but the venerable 'gay panic' defense is being tossed about surrounding the murder of an Indiana University professor, Don Belton, who was stabbed in his own kitchen at least six times with a ten-inch military knife. The assailant, Michael Griffin, is a 25-year-old ex-marine. In 2010, one might think 'gay panic' is as much an oxymoron as 'jumbo shrimp' or 'fighting for peace.' After all, let's call 'gay panic' what it really is — an act by someone so self-loathing or insecure that they annihilate a person because they can't come to terms with their own issues. As a friend of mine put it, yeah, that may be panic. But defensible? Hardly."

- Michael A. Jones, in his blog titled "Why Hasn't the 'Gay Panic' Defense Died a Miserable Death?," about the recent fatal stabbing of Indiana University Assistant Professor Don Belton, <http://gayrights.change.org>, Jan. 4.



"Social justice is never a march that ends on a single day, with a single decision. It is a long, hard slog that has many victories and defeats. As we started the last decade, no one could have imagined that we'd have marriage equality in Massachusetts, the first of five states to legalize same-sex nuptials."

- Joe Solmonese, president, Human Rights Campaign, quoted in an article titled "Gays Feeling Jilted After Tough Battles for Rights," about recent events in the epic battle

over LGBT rights, www.sphere.com, Jan. 14.

"On Facebook, teenagers list their relationship status in many ways. Girls say they are 'married to' other girls, but not only are they not married (in the literal sense), they are not necessarily gay either. Sometimes a girl will list that she is married to another girl, but 'looking for' men. Some even insert the other girl's surname into theirs as a middle name. It's confusing — but then, every generation has its own rules and views of love. It made perfect sense to (my daughter), but not to me or my husband. How, then, did they differentiate between teenagers who listed, on Facebook, that they were interested in 'men,' interested in 'women,' and sometimes interested in 'men and women'? My teenager rolled her eyes at me."

- Candy Schulman, in her blog titled "The vocabulary of love — My 15-year-old daughter talks about marrying girlfriends on Facebook. I don't get it, but maybe I'm not supposed to," www.salon.com, Jan. 6.



Parting Glances Then & Now

BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

It's that time again ...

If you ask me, the National Enquirer is once again doing America a great — and much needed — public and patriotic service this month by devoting several kiss-explicit pages to Who's Gay & Who's Not.

Kiss kiss: Courtney Love and Amanda de Cadenet. Kiss kiss: Selma Blair and Sarah Michelle Gellar.

Kiss kiss: Tommy Lee and fellow rocker Dave Navarro! (Exclamation point added for emphasis by tabloid.)

Unfortunately, one Ferndale shopper passed out at the checkout counter while perusing NE while waiting in line. "I could have told her Anderson Cooper was gay," said a rather blasé, gay-friendly cashier. "But when she saw his picture on the cover she just blew it, if you'll pardon the expression."

Apparently the shopper, who was rushed to nearby Providence Hospital ER, is making a promising recovery after being given two Midols and being invited to join GOITER, a national support group for survivors of celebrities who come out publicly. (Getting Over It

"I could have told her Anderson Cooper was gay."

Together: Emergency Rescue)

"Poor thing," said attending ER nurse Bruce-Allan Ratched, who sees several disillusioned-straight-woman cases weekly. "She was fully disoriented when she arrived. Blue in the face. Kept mumbling over and over. First Sarah Palin on Fox News. Now Anderson Cooper. This has got to be some sort of demonic, culture-war plot."

My own disappointment in perusing this week's NE is bike-racing legend Lance Armstrong. (I've been told I peddle it about like him.) Purportedly he's been "sexually linked" to Hollywood heart-throber Matthew McConaughey. (Who, curiously enough, I'm also said to resemble by many of my discerning, fully mature, ten-speed, shift-gears readers.)

But — as always — there's a caveat to the Armstrong-hyphen-McConaughey, would-be homo hanky panky. Apparently Lance has really, truly been biking in bona fide approved lanes. He has three kids with an ex-wife and has a 6-month-old son with Anna Hansen, a current girlfriend.

Oh, God! Not Hugh Jackman. You've got to be kidding. Apparently Huge, er, Hugh was seen kissing a male costar on stage "during every performance" of "The Boy From Oz." Another caveat! He's married to Australian actress Deborra-Lee Furness.

They have a young son named Oscar. (No comment.) By the way, Hugh's bare-chest photo on page 20 is stunning. (I looked like that — give or take a few unaccented abs — when I was his age. 41. Sit ups, anyone?)

Says handsome Hugh about being family, "I'd be happy to go and deny it, because I am not. But by denying it, I'm saying there is something shameful about it, and there isn't anything shameful." (Thanks, Hugh. You're a good sport. Hey, for what it's worth, I'm available for a little down-under, outback, Jackaroo-me goodwill.)

Then there's Kevin Spacey. God only knows what he's depicted doing in his photo — with an inverted traffic sign to boot, and — you guessed it — an exclamation point — covering his "butt bongo." At 50, he looks bleary eyed. Gossip: he was mugged last year in a London park at 4 a.m. "known for homosexual encounters."

I don't suppose there's anybody of even dimwitted gaydar functioning who doesn't know that Adam Lambert's gay. So why bother? But of the nine couples featured kissing, Lambert's blow-my-hair-back-honey smooch of an unidentified partner is vacuum-dryer hot.

And, in case any BTL lipstickickers are interested, Cher — a remarkably reworked 63 — who's had past same-sex flings "but weren't something that kept my interest" — says she wouldn't rule out a lesbian relationship in the future, now that Chastity's become chunky Chaz.

In closing: same-age Barry Manilow says he "hasn't publicly dated in years." Anybody ready for a Copacabana comeback? (Take two Midols or call Nurse Ratched collect.)

Charles@pridesource.com

News Analysis: Prop. 8 update

Where the trial stands one week in, and what it could mean for LGBT America

BY REX WOCKNER

At press time, the trial in the federal lawsuit against Proposition 8 was continuing in U.S. District Court in San Francisco before Judge Vaughn Walker.

Famous heterosexual attorneys Ted Olson and David Boies are trying to convince Walker that Prop. 8, which amended California's constitution to re-ban same-sex marriage, violates the U.S. Constitution's guarantees of due process and equal protection under the law.

Leading gay rights groups have been sidelined in the case, limited to filing "friend of the court" briefs, because they didn't play nice with Olson and Boies early on. They publicly dissed the case as unwise and poorly timed.

The lawsuit, which likely will end up before the U.S. Supreme Court, could lead to the legalization of same-sex marriage in all 50 states. Conversely, it also could possibly stall the movement

for same-sex marriage for a generation, should the U.S. Supreme Court uphold Prop 8.

Judge Walker had wanted to beam video of the trial to other federal courthouses and post it on YouTube, but the U.S. Supreme Court, in a 5-4 ruling, put the kibosh on that idea Jan. 13, saying officials in the federal courts' 9th Circuit hadn't followed proper procedure in lifting the ban on cameras in federal courts.

Olson and Boies strongly supported broadcasting the trial. The pro-Prop. 8 side vociferously opposed the plan, ultimately filing an emergency appeal to the Supreme Court to stop it.

Gay activists and commentators suggested that Prop. 8 defenders were horrified at the idea of the trial being broadcast because they know that their anti-gay rhetoric, which is being analyzed in detail at the trial, is hateful, false and, when exposed in full, so unpalatable and embarrassing that it could turn the public against them.

Information introduced during the trial on Jan. 13, for example, revealed that one defendant in the case, Hak-Shing William Tam, wrote a letter to voters during the Prop. 8 campaign saying that once gays have the right to marry, they will pursue legalization of pedophilia.

"On their agenda list is: legalize having sex with children," the letter said. It also claimed that legal same-sex marriage in California would cause "other states (to) fall into Satan's hands."

Prop. 8's lawyers claimed they didn't want cameras in court for, among other reasons, fear that their witnesses could face nasty retaliation from militant, if not violent, homosexual thugs who saw the video feed.

The anti-same-sex marriage side also objected to the playing in court of their successfully alarmist TV ads from the Prop. 8 campaign, which suggested that gay marriage could lead to schoolchildren being taught inappropriate, bad

Some Web sites to check out for extensive Proposition 8 trial coverage:

Courage Campaign

<http://prop8trialtracker.com>

Analysis from the largest anti-Prop. 8 campaign

American Foundation for Equal Rights

www.equalrightsfoundation.org

Real-time updates through Twitter, video

or wrong things.

Many analysts and commentators believe the gay-marriage-will-harm-your-kids TV ads may have tipped the balance against same-sex marriage in the minds of voters both in California and, more recently, Maine, where some of the California ads were recycled.

The Prop. 8 trial is being live-blogged, tweeted and analyzed to within an inch of its life by an army of bloggers, activists and news reporters.

International

by Rex Wockner



Leading Moscow activist Nikolai Alekseev thinks government corruption led to the closure of the city's oldest gay dance club. File photo

Major Moscow gay club shut down

Moscow's oldest gay dance club has been indirectly shut down by the city, GayRussia.ru reported Dec. 31.

Club Body & Soul had been targeted by Moscow Northern District Prefect Oleg Mitvol, who claimed it brought drug trafficking, prostitution, public sex and moral degradation to the neighborhood.

The club's lease was canceled by its landlord, the Society of Blind People, which said it acted after being threatened with a loss of city subsidies if it didn't evict the club.

The society's vice president, State Duma Deputy Oleg Smolin, is a political rival of Mitvol.

Club management has filed suit over the eviction and vowed to pursue the case as far as the European Court of Human Rights.

Leading gay activist Nikolai Alekseev alleged that the shutdown was another example of government corruption that he said has burdened nongovernmental organizations and gay businesses.

Body & Soul had been in operation since 2003 and attracted around 2,000 patrons on weekend nights. Its closure leaves Moscow,

which has 10.5 million residents, with one large gay dance bar.

Gay couple 'marries' in China

State media reported Jan. 13 that a gay couple got "married" in a gay bar in Chengdu, China.

Zeng Anquan, 45, and Pan Wenjie, 27, tied the knot before 200 friends.

"We are no longer hiding anymore," Zeng told China Daily. "The wedding is our happiest and most precious moment. We don't care how others consider us, as long as we are together. (W)e are deeply in love and will never desert each other."

Zeng's brother responded to the wedding by freezing Zeng's capital in the company the two own, he said, and Zeng's sister told him she won't acknowledge him as her brother again until he breaks up with Pan.

Report criticizes PEPFAR program

The Council for Global Equality and the Center for American Progress issued a report Jan. 13 criticizing numerous practices of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, a U.S. government program that operates in Botswana, Cambodia, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Guyana, Haiti, India, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Russia, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Vietnam, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The report, "How Ideology Trumped Science: Why PEPFAR Has Failed to Meet Its Potential," outlines multiple ways in which conservative ideology allegedly has distorted PEPFAR's reach and impact.

"These include inadequate attention to the needs of men who have sex with men, failure

to address laws that have impeded outreach to underserved LGBT communities, exclusion of programs targeting commercial sex workers and injecting drug users and inadequate attention to sex education, particularly the correct usage of condoms," the organizations said.

"These and other shortfalls detailed in the report have undermined the science-based approach needed to win the fight against HIV and AIDS," they said.

The report, available at globalequality.org, was authored by Scott Evertz, who was director of the Office of National AIDS Policy during U.S. President George W. Bush's first term.

"Mr. Evertz' observations of what went wrong with PEPFAR are firsthand," said CGE senior advisor Michael Guest, the openly gay former U.S. ambassador to Romania. "His specific recommendations to improve the program reflect both an expert's knowledge of HIV/AIDS problems facing LGBT communities abroad as well as the political shoals on which a science-based approach to HIV/AIDS prevention has foundered."

The Council for Global Equality is an alliance of 18 prominent U.S. LGBT and human rights organizations working to increase U.S. government efforts to secure fair treatment and equal rights for LGBT people at home and abroad.

HRW: Release Malawi lovers

Malawi's government should drop all charges against a gay couple who are facing up to 14 years in prison, Human Rights Watch said Jan. 12 in a letter to justice and home affairs officials.

On Dec. 26, Steven Monjeza, 26, and Tiwonge Chimbalanga, 20, held a traditional engagement ceremony in the city of Blantyre. After newspapers reported on the event, police arrested the couple at their home Dec. 28, charging them with "unnatural offenses" and "indecent practices between males" under sections 153 and

156 of Malawi's criminal code.

A judge denied the couple bail, and on Jan. 6 they were taken to Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital, where Chimbalanga was examined for "evidence" he has had gay sex. The following day, both men were subjected to psychiatric testing, also without their consent.

"Prosecuting two adults just because they affirm their love is a terrible injustice," said Dipika Nath of HRW's LGBT rights program. "To subject individuals to spurious medical examinations against their will shows grave disregard for their fundamental human rights as well as for the public welfare."

The couple headed to trial on Jan. 15 but the proceedings were immediately adjourned after Chimbalanga vomited and collapsed in court. His lawyers said he is suffering from severe malaria. London's Times said that no one came to Chimbalanga's aid. He eventually managed to get back up on his own, after which he was made to get a mop and bucket and clean up his vomit, the Times said.

Monjeza and Chimbalanga remain jailed in Chichiri Prison in Blantyre. Their lawyers told HRW the couple are being verbally abused and possibly beaten, and that they are not receiving adequate food and other necessities.

If found guilty of all charges, the men face up to 14 years in prison with hard labor.

"These arrests create a climate of fear in Malawi and intimidate human rights advocates, negating the progress made in the National AIDS Strategy to stem the spread of HIV and AIDS (via) outreach efforts (aimed) at men who have sex with men," the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission said Jan. 12.

Trans prison to open in Italy

About 30 inmates will be moved to a prison near Florence, Italy, that will house only transgender prisoners, local media reported Jan. 12. The facility in the town of Pozzale is nearly vacant at present, holding two female inmates.

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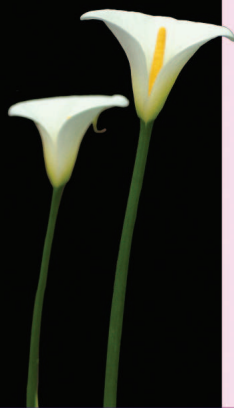
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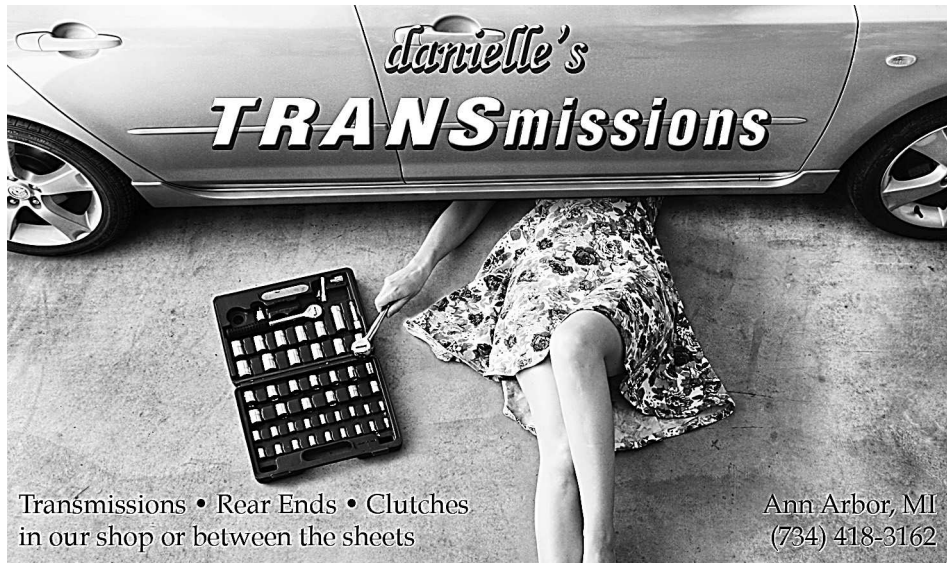
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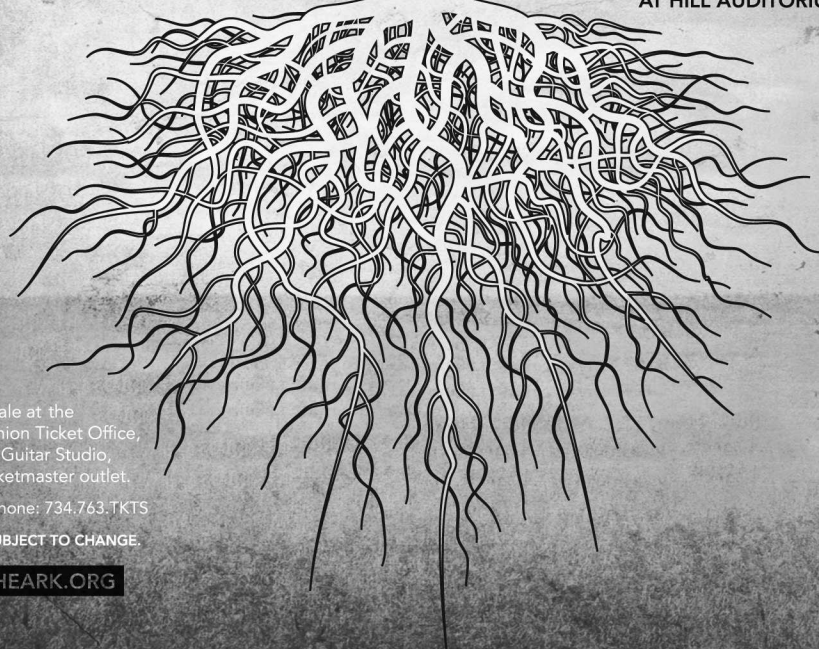
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CAREY ME

By CHRIS AZZOPARDI

How Mariah changed my life – and her own

So Mariah Carey isn't just that vocally inimitable pop goddess who belts the hell out of "Hero," like she said during a press conference recently. I know that now, and am constantly reminded by some of her loopy antics (ice cream, anyone?), very public break-ups/breakdowns and that one recent sloshed award-acceptance speech that made a big buzz.

Bigger, anyway, than her R&B-throwback flop "Memoirs of an Imperfect Angel," released in September. That, along with its remix reissue due in March, is what brings Mariah on the road during a theater outing titled "The Angels Advocate Tour," stopping Jan. 25 at the Fox Theatre.

Her last trek, to support 2005's juggernaut "The Emancipation of Mimi," was in arenas, so why's Mimi going mini? Despite the bomb it's backing, a real singer, like the Celines and Whitneys of yesteryear, aren't the easiest sell in this post-vocal world, when voices sound a lot less human than they used to (even Mariah, of all people, has turned to Auto-Tune). And here we have the queer-worshiped warbler, trying to be more human, more "imperfect," more drunk than she ever was publicly, stammering through that speech like your average boozier – and then not even covering up for it. "I have a sense of humor," she defended days later, "and that's basically what gets me through life."

See Mariah, page 19

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John Manfredi and James Bowen star in "K2" at Performance Network Theatre. Photo: Peter Smith.

Stranded at 27,000 feet

BY MARTIN F. KOHN

So strong is the physical narrative – storytelling by action, stance and facial expression – in Tim Edward Rhoze's production of Patrick Meyers' mountain-climbing drama "K2" that it hardly requires words. Indeed, besides an initial epithet of stunned dismay, its first few minutes are wordless, yet the audience learns a great deal.

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See **Stranded**, page 23

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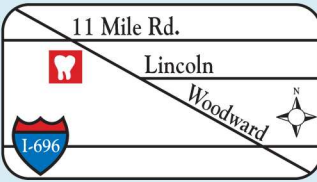
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► Mariah

Continued from p. 15

Mariah helped carry me through much of mine. I was what she calls her uber-fans – a “lamb.” The proof was in my bedroom: walls plastered with posters, two double-inch binders full of magazine clippings and rare memorabilia. I’d hound music-store clerks to claim some of their promo gear, once fetching a huge cardboard display rack. That became the spot for my Mariah CDs – all of them, which turned out to be a lot more than the 12 most people thought she had (this includes imports from other countries, singles, live bootlegs and often multiple copies of the same album, just in case I wore the first one out).

Gee, how we grow up and realize that life isn’t just rainbows and butterflies and Mariah, who seemed to be this bigger-than-life lady. It’s that angelic, superhuman shroud I miss about Mariah. How is it that she’s a real person who does her duty on the toilet and bleeds when she gets a paper cut? She used to be God.

So she’s not the savior – and, despite her whole anniversaries-not-birthdays motto, she turns a year older every year, too. As I have, I’ve expanded my music-listening loves (everyone around me seems happy about that), but there’s still something that’s very nostalgic about Mariah, for which my unwavering fondness is like the rock she

once was, and sometimes still is, to me.

Call it corny, but many of us had one – a celeb crush who felt like a friend. For many of my gay peers, that was Madonna. But I always related more to Mariah. Her music saw me through a myriad of drama: family turmoil, identity issues and self-esteem struggles.

At her pinnacle, and at my lowest, she released “Butterfly,” 1997’s reflective opus. It wasn’t her best-selling album, but it was her best – full of revealing, minimalistic ballads that were heartbreaking, including a cathartic gospel song about being an outsider. Oh, the money it saved me in therapy. Mostly, anyway. There was the first time I saw her live 10 years ago, blowing over 500 bucks to see her sing in Chicago. She was there, and so was I. How surreal, I thought.

When I met Mariah backstage in Cleveland a few years later, that magical aura once enveloping her had almost completely lifted. As cool and climactic and OMG-that’s-Mariah as I remember it, it was also like learning the secret to a magician’s trick.

In the way her handlers wouldn’t allow fans to give hugs (I stole one anyway) and in how she’s towering over everyone else in the group photo that was taken, she still seemed very majestic – all statuesque and untouchable and flawlessly shot from the one side, hand on hip.

But the Mariah we see now – the one who unabashedly rambles in buzzed sex-kitten purrs – seems to care less about nurturing a specific image, less guarded and more love-it-or-leave-it than ever before. And why the heck should she care? She’s left her mark (with some of the biggest heels known to women and drag queens) – the awards, record-breakers, the criminal “American Idol” wannabes all speak of her accomplishments in a remarkable two-decade career.



Gee, how we grow up and realize that life isn’t just rainbows and butterflies and Mariah, who seemed to be this bigger-than-life lady. It’s that angelic, superhuman shroud I miss about Mariah. How is it that she’s a real person who does her duty on the toilet and bleeds when she gets a paper cut? She used to be God.

Being herself wasn’t always one of them. But now she seems happily married to Nick Cannon, forsaking vanity for a frumpy role in indie-sleeper “Precious,” fully proud of her ta-tas and more Mimi than ever before on “Memoirs,” cracking ridiculous jokes (there’s that sense of

humor!). Finally, Mariah’s Mariah, or Mimi, or whatever she wants to call herself – and she doesn’t really give a damn about what you think.

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Between Lines

Ke\$ha's debut causes queasiness, folkie Patty Griffin goes gospel



Ke\$ha, 'Animal'

Pop's new "bi" on the block is the kid Katy Perry would have if she could birth a 22-year-old smart ass. Her stock elocution is an almost-clone of the "I Kissed a Girl" phony's. But Ke\$ha likes booze more – or so she sings (and sometimes raps) in her teen-sounding tone. The no-BS-taking brat is hammered on much of her

drunk-on-dance debut, sneaking alcohol into her purse, guzzling it like water or using it as a metaphor. Oftentimes she unleashes some snarky, cackle-causing zinger. All this is sloshed over electro-pop beats via music-making majors like Dr. Luke and Max Martin, who manipulate Ke\$ha's Katy-meets-Miley vocals to crazy robotic, half-Chipmunk effect. Much of "Animal" is cut from the same blipity-blooping that assaults the first single, "TiK ToK,"

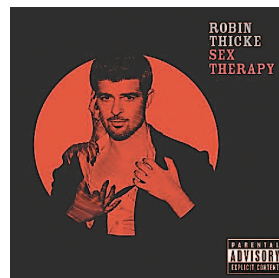
with the opening lead-in of songs offering irresponsible fun – especially on the fuzzed-out "Take It Off," promoting drunken hot messes. But as if to make her seem like a real person, she turns to insufferable ballads that aren't believable when she's channeling more machismo than a frat boy. There's still instant gratification to some of this disposable, processed party-pop, but it's on par with a night of nonstop drinking. You won't remember much of it tomorrow. Grade: C



Patty Griffin, 'Downtown Church'

When this little big-lunged lady dropped her dynamo debut "Living With Ghosts" in the mid-'90s, she wrote of a queer bestie. Bette Midler would cover the song, called "Moses" – about needing the prophet, not just a gay, to part the pain. Now Griffin's got Jesus. On her venturesome seventh CD, she immerses fully into the gospel

goodies she's honed here and there, like her last disc's "Up to the Mountain," butchered on Susan Boyle's debut. But redoing a Griffin song, like many have (including the Dixie Chicks), is near impossible; she's a vocal virtuoso, emitting a raw, sky-reaching soar, fetching nuances and finding the emotional gut of all she sings. The power of her sinewy instrument is in full palette on "Downtown Church," an album that still maintains a Griffin feel – melancholy, cathartic, a warm blanket on a cold night. Her two original ditties fit seamlessly among covers and traditional tunes (the best being "Never Grow Old," sung in a crackly ache). One of them, "Coming Home to Me," is breathtaking. She also sounds positively glorious on the high-sung closing hymn and could bring a Southern Baptist church to its knees on "Move Up" – the only way Griffin continues to head. Grade: A



Robin Thicke, 'Sex Therapy: The Experience'

Oh, it's so Thicke ... with requisite Robin sounds that might make you want to hump the hell outta someone. Who could resist with that pillow-talk falsetto, singing in a come-hither hiss on songs like "Mrs. Sexy" and "Shakin' It 4 Daddy." The R&B love doctor is more doting than desirous on "2

Luv Birds," a sweet G-rated delight. Everything else, as corny as some of it is, should make your new sex soundtrack.



Alicia Keys, 'The Element of Freedom'

Pop music's anti-ho is all about the slow reveal on this big-on-ballads disc. During it, it's hard not to feel like Keys' musicianship mojo is destined for higher glory, but there's a cool panache to her love and longing meditations – especially on supple standout "Try Sleeping with a Broken Heart." And with one of her worst songs

– the embarrassing Beyoncé duet – already behind her, it's only up from here, right?



Timbaland, 'Shock Value II'

The producer du jour knows how to build a good beat. He did so on Justin Timberlake's best album and again on the edgy predecessor of this mountain of monotony that peaks early with JT's contribution. Then, in what sounds like B-sides from the original, it becomes a redundant bore with the least bit of brains, talent and none of that

music-making magic expected from a name like Timbaland.

Reach Chris Azzopardi at chris@pridesource.com.

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a. \$120,000
b. \$500,000
c. \$975,000
d. \$1.2 Million

2) A written budget can help you to:

a. Save for emergencies and major purchases
b. Set aside enough to pay your bills
c. Have spending money in your pocket
d. All of the above

3) A good goal for how much to save is:

a. 10 to 20 percent of your monthly living expenses
b. 1 to 2 percent of what's left of your monthly income after living expenses and debts are paid
c. 10 to 20 percent of what left of your monthly income after living expenses and debts are paid
d. More than your friends ask to borrow from you

ANSWERS: 1) D, 2) D, 3) C

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Making merry at the Hilberry Theatre

BY DONALD V. CALAMIA

Just like the character of Arlecchino in its current production, Detroit's Hilberry Theatre is also "The Servant of Two Masters." But while the comical buffoon needs only to satisfy his bosses, Wayne State University's Department of Theatre must offer its graduate students a challenging learning environment in which to earn their master's degrees, while producing shows that donors and theatergoers alike will support. It's not an easy balance to maintain, since the shows the theater traditionally stages - Shakespeare and the classics - aren't necessarily what today's much-sought-after young(er) audiences are clamoring to see. But the winds of change have been blowing across the campus of late, and with them has arrived a wildly silly and energetic

REVIEW

'The Servant of Two Masters'

Hilberry Theatre, 4743 Cass Ave., Detroit.
Performed in repertory through March 27. \$25-\$30. 313-577-2972. www.wsushows.com

production that I suspect is the most fun the Hilberry Company and its opening night audience have had on Cass Avenue in many years!

And possibly one of the most physically demanding!

Adapted by James R. Tompkins from the 1743 comedy by Italian playwright Carlo Goldoni, "The Servant of Two Masters" tells the story of Arlecchino (Jason

Cabral), a servant who arrives in Venice with his master, Federigo Rasponi (Sara Hymes) - or so everyone believes. In actuality, it's Federigo's sister, Beatrice, who comes in disguise to secretly collect two things: the dowry promised her brother by Pantalone dei Bisognosi (Christopher R. Ellis), whose daughter, Clarice (Lorelei Sturm), he was supposed to wed; and Florindo (Jordan Whalen), her lover who recently killed her brother in a spat. To add to the confusion, Florindo also shows up in search of Beatrice, and sensing an opportunity to earn twice the income, Arlecchino secretly becomes his servant, as well. And as you can probably guess, mayhem quickly ensues.

To read the complete review, log on to EncoreMichigan.com or pridesource.com.

'A Song For Coretta' spins an unusual tune

BY D. A. BLACKBURN

With Martin Luther King Jr. Day on the post-weekend horizon, it seemed entirely fitting that the Detroit Repertory Theatre would choose to open "A Song For Coretta" Thursday night. The play, however, packs a jarring surprise, delivering a startling message about the cultural impact of an American icon.

"A Song For Coretta" was written by Pearl Cleage, an artist with significant ties to Detroit and to the civil rights movement that made the work's title figure a household name. Fittingly, the work made its premiere in Atlanta in 2007, but it's no stranger to Detroit-area audiences, having previously been staged at the Charles H. Wright Museum in the city's cultural center. The DRT's production, though, is almost entirely fresh - with just one hold-over in casting from the Wright production.

REVIEW

'A Song For Coretta'

Detroit Repertory Theatre, 13103 Woodrow Wilson, Detroit. Thursday-Sunday through March 21. \$17-\$20. 313-868-1347. www.detroitreptheatre.com

The work is set against the backdrop of Atlanta's Ebenezer Baptist Church on the day of Coretta Scott King's funeral. As was the reality of the occasion, an immense crowd has gathered to mourn. The play picks up late in the evening, on a rain-drenched sidewalk where the last of the mourners are waiting to pay their respects to a woman whose influence has been as unique for each as it has been lasting.

The play's basic premise - a clash-turned-sisterhood of five African-American

women of very different backgrounds - is sound, if a bit predictable. And ultimately, all five characters come off in essentially the same way - likable and easily relatable caricatures of various social and economic classes.

The first act of "A Song For Coretta" introduces four characters: Helen Richards (Charity Clark), a widowed veteran of the Montgomery bus boycott; Zora Evans (Lydia Willis), a college student and aspiring journalist hoping to make her big break with a story about the funeral; Mona Lisa Martin (Angela G. King), a struggling portrait artist and hurricane Katrina survivor; and Keisha Cameron (Casaundra Freeman), a pregnant urban high school student with a standoffish attitude.

To read the complete review, log on to EncoreMichigan.com or pridesource.com.

Life's ups and downs at The Ringwald

BY DONALD V. CALAMIA

Every now and then as a theater critic you'll walk out of a show and wish you'd liked it better than you did - which is what I felt as I left the opening night performance of "Based on a Totally True Story" at Ferndale's Ringwald Theatre. But in this case, the problems I have with the show have little to do with the often funny production as staged by Who Wants Cake? Theatre, but rather with the script.

Young or up-and-coming authors are often told by their mentors or teachers to "write what you know" - that is, to explore subjects with which they have first-hand knowledge or experience. So playwright Roberto Aguirre-Sacasa, who splits his time writing for Marvel Comics and HBO's "Big Love," did just that in 2006 with a tale of a 20-something, gay, New York-based

REVIEW

'Based on a Totally True Story'

Who Wants Cake Theatre at The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Saturday-Monday through Feb. 1. \$10-\$20. 248-545-5545. www.whowantscaketheatre.com

comic book writer whose unproduced play gets optioned for a movie by - guess who? - HBO.

Aguirre-Sacasa crafted "Totally True" as a memory play in which Ethan Keene (Vince Kelley) narrates a condensed retelling of his life from the moment he met soon-to-be boyfriend and fellow writer Michael Sullivan (Jeff Bobick) to the long-awaited


preview of his horror flick. Along the way Ethan and Michael move in together, his manipulative producer (Dyan Bailey) requests strange rewrites to his script, his dad (Dan Morrison) drops a bombshell on him in Sears' tool department, and a trip to Los Angeles is far more adventuresome than he planned - and Ethan handles much of it not particularly well.

That, of course, is where the plot's conflicts arise. Yet it's tough to feel much empathy for the self-absorbed and emotionally immature Ethan, since his inability to open up and share his feelings and anxieties are the root causes of his dilemma.

But equally problematic is the script's construction

To read the complete review, log on to EncoreMichigan.com or pridesource.com.

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OUTINGS

Friday, Jan. 22

Performing Arts Collective Auditions, 4 p.m. Auditions for Black History Month performance. Singers, dancers, actors and more welcome. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org

Dash of Dezzi, 6 p.m. An open house to welcoming Michael Dezzi to Five15. Five15, 515 S. Washington, Royal Oak. 248-515-2551. www.five15.net

Polyamory, 7 p.m. A discussion group for people in non-monogamous relationships. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org

Womyn's Film Night, 7 p.m. "Out of the Past." The true story of a gay straight alliance started in a Salt Lake City high school. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org

Saturday, Jan. 23

Winter Family Games Night, 5 p.m. An all-ages fundraiser for Together We Can with board games, bingo, pie-throwing and more. Refreshments provided, 50/50 raffle. Suggested donation \$5. Together We Can, 2441 Pinecrest, Ferndale. twcdetroit.org

Prevent All Mini Ball, 7 p.m. A fun, drug, alcohol and nicotine-free ball for youth. Tickets: \$3. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org

Drag Queen Bingo, 8 p.m. The ever-popular bingo night has gone weekly, with a drag queen host each week. Five15, 515 S. Washington, Royal Oak. 248-515-2551. www.five15.net

Sunday, Jan. 24

Bowl With Friends, 2 p.m. Fundraiser for Affirmations. Cost: \$10, includes three games, shoes and food. Affirmations, 4120 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org

Monday, Jan. 25

Volunteer Potluck, 4 p.m. A dinner held for Affirmations staff and volunteers. Bring a dish to pass! RSVP required. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org

HIV Support Group, 7 p.m. Share and discuss issues relating to health and wellness. WINGS, 2441 Pinecrest Drive, Ferndale. dwnrvrcub@yahoo.com. www.wingsmi.org

Tuesday, Jan. 26

Transgender SOS, 7 p.m. A safe space for spouses, partners, family and friends of transgender people. Ages 18 and up. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org

Discussion and Support Group, 7 p.m. A discussion and support group for Jewish LGBT, questioning and allied people. Jewish Gay Network, 6600 W. Maple, West Bloomfield. 248-432-5661. www.jglnmi.org

Sing Out Detroit, 7 p.m. Rehearsals for 35 member LGBT choir. Singing and non-singing members welcome. Sing Out Detroit, 26998 Woodward, Royal Oak. 248-943-2411. linda@singoutdetroit.com. www.singoutdetroit.com

LezBe Honest, 10 p.m. A new lesbian dance night. Studio 4, 314 S. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. 734-302-3687. www.studio4club.com

Wednesday, Jan. 27

Caring Partners Support Group, 6:30 p.m. Support group for caregivers who care for anyone in the LGBT community that has dementia or Alzheimer's Disease. Alzheimers Association of Greater Michigan Chapter, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org

Newly Single, 6:30 p.m. A support group for LGBT people who are coping with the loss of a relationship. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org

Keystone Women's Wednesday, 7 p.m. A friendly, smoke-free environment for women. gProductions, 200 West Michigan Ave, Ypsilanti. 734-544-9960. BGRRRLproductions@gmail.com

Hump Night, 9 p.m. A dance party hosted by Crystal Harding with DJ John Cruz. Cover: \$3, \$2 with college ID. Sixx Events, 141 9 Mile Rd., Ferndale. 248-582-7227. www.club9ferndale.com

Thursday, Jan. 28

Sexpertise, 12:30 p.m. Conversation about relationships, communication, sex and sexual health. Free. University Health System, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. 734-647-4659. sexualhealth.umich.edu

Friday, Jan. 29

Sexpertise, 12:30 p.m. Conversation about relationships, communication, sex and sexual health. Free. University Health System, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. 734-647-4659. sexualhealth.umich.edu

Feeling Groovy, 7 p.m. Songs of the '60s. Tickets: \$13 in advance, \$15 at the door. Out Loud Chorus, 4800 E. Huron Drive, Ann Arbor. www.olconline.org

Womyn's Film Night, 7 p.m. "Fingersmith." Dark deeds and intrigue abound when a petty thief helps a con man defraud a wealthy heiress. But the thief's plans are thwarted when she love comes into play. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org

Latin Nights, 8 p.m. With salsa lessons, Latin music and lots of LGBT Latinos! Cover: \$5 for Detroit Latin@z members, \$10 for non-members. Menjo's, 928 W. McNichols, Detroit. rmagdal79@yahoo.com

WINGS Fantast-Ink Bar Night, 10 p.m. Stud auction with giveaways and temporary tattoos. WINGS, 7330 Michigan Ave., Detroit. 313-849-2751. dwnrvrcub@yahoo.com www.wingsmi.org

Saturday, Jan. 30

A Decade of Men, 6 p.m. An art show, featuring the tantalizing artwork of Uwe Grosse. Five15, 515 S. Washington, Royal Oak. 248-515-2551. www.five15.net

Jocelyn B, 8 p.m. A performance by the Bitch of the Blues. Part of Black History Month events. Tickets: \$10 general admission, \$15 with tickets for beer/wine. Ages 21 and older only. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org

Drag Queen Bingo, 8 p.m. The ever-popular bingo night has gone weekly, with a drag queen host each week. Five15, 515 S. Washington, Royal Oak. 248-515-2551. www.five15.net

MUSIC & MORE

BENEFITS/SOCIAL EVENTS

Michigan Parkinson Foundation "Katie's Kause" A fundraiser for the Michigan Parkinson Foundation with golf, bowling, a raffle and food. Tickets: \$25. Wonderland Lanes, 8265 Richardson, Commerce Township. 1 p.m. Jan. 23. www.parkinsonsmi.org

Northville Parks and Recreation Center "Chill-E Festival" The annual day of winter fun, with the Blizzard Breakfast, chili cook-off, live music and more. Northville Senior Community Center and Town Square, 303 W. Main, Northville. 8:30 a.m. Jan. 30. 248-349-7640. www.northville.org



EDITOR'S PICK

A groundbreaking new initiative is bringing a piece of the 2010 Sundance Film Festival to Michigan as part of the Sundance Film Festival U.S.A. project. Eight locations were chosen – including Ann Arbor's Michigan Theater – to premiere a Sundance film for local audiences.

"Cyrus" will show at 7:30 p.m. Jan. 28 at the historic theater, along with a visit from the movie's creators. The comedy, created by the Duplass Brothers, stars John C. Reilly as a divorcee who meets a beautiful woman (Marisa Tomei) with an unusual son (Jonah Hill).

Tickets for the premiere are \$15 and can be purchased at the Michigan Theater box office, or online at www.michtheater.org.

CLASSICAL

Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra "Mozart World Tour" A family concert, with pre-concert activities beginning at 2:30 p.m. Tickets: \$6. Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor. 4 p.m. Jan. 24. www.a2so.com

Chamber Music Society of Detroit "Berlin Philharmonic Wind Quintet" A celebration of the CMSD's 10th anniversary. Tickets: \$25-75. Seligman Performing Arts Center, 22305 W. 13 Mile Road, Beverly Hills. 7 p.m. Jan. 30. 248-855-6070. www.comehearcmsd.org

Chamber Music Society of Detroit "Berlin Philharmonic Wind Quintet" Tickets: \$43-75. Seligman Performing Arts Center, 22305 W. 13 Mile Road, Beverly Hills. 8 p.m. Jan. 30. 248-855-6070. www.comehearcmsd.org

Detroit Symphony Orchestra "Hahn and Higdon" A concert with Jennifer Higdon and Hilary Hahn, performing works by Rossini, Shostakovich and original work by Higdon. Tickets: \$19-71. Orchestra Hall, 3663 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Jan. 21 - Jan. 23. 313-576-5111. www.detroitssymphony.com

Lansing Symphony Orchestra "Command Performance" With violinist Ilya Kaler, performing works by Brahms, Strauss and more. Tickets: \$12-45. Wharton Center, Michigan State University, East Lansing. 7 p.m. Jan. 23. 517-487-5001. www.lansingsymphony.org

MSU College of Music "Philharmonic Orchestra" Performing works by Hahn, Godard, Grieg and Borodin. Tickets: \$10 adults, \$8 seniors, free for students. Fairchild Theatre, Michigan State University, East Lansing. 7:30 p.m. Jan. 28. 517-355-3345. www.music.msu.edu

MSU College of Music "Schubertiade 2010" Tickets: \$10 adults, \$8 seniors, free for students. Music Building, Michigan State University, East Lansing. 3 p.m. Jan. 31. 517-355-3345. www.music.msu.edu

MSU College of Music "Faculty Concert" A concert on viola, cello and piano. Tickets: \$10 adults, \$8 seniors, free for students. Music Building Auditorium, Michigan State University, East Lansing. 8 p.m. Jan. 29. 517-355-3345. www.music.msu.edu

Plymouth Canton Symphony Society "Brahms Sunday Serenade" Featuring harpist Maurice Draughn. Tickets: \$25 adults, \$20 seniors, \$10 students. First Methodist Church, 45201 North Territorial Road, Plymouth. 2 p.m. Jan. 24. 734-451-2112. www.plymouthsymphony.org

University Musical Society "Opera in Concert, Bartok's Bluebeard's Castle" A performance by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. Tickets: \$10-100. Hill Auditorium, 825 N. University, Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Jan. 27. www.ums.org

CONCERTS

Detroit Institute of Arts "Phylis Chen and Johannes Moser" A concert on piano and cello. Museum admission: \$8 adults, \$6 seniors, \$4 youth. Detroit Institute of Arts, 5200 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 7 p.m. Jan. 22, 8:30 p.m. Jan. 22. 313-833-7900. www.dia.org

Detroit Institute of Arts "The Carpe Diem String Quartet" Performing Five Paleontological Mysteries, featuring Peter Soave. Museum admission: \$8 adults, \$6 seniors, \$4 youth. Detroit Institute of Arts, 5200 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 7 p.m. Jan. 29, 8:30 p.m. Jan. 29. 313-833-7900. www.dia.org

Detroit Symphony Orchestra "Classical Roots" The world premiere of violinist Regina Carter performing Billy Childs' violin concerto. Tickets: \$19-71. Orchestra Hall, 350 Madison Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. Jan. 29, 8:30 p.m. Jan. 30. www.detroitssymphony.com

Farmington Hills Cultural Arts Division "An Evening Out with the MOT" A performance by the Michigan Opera Theater. Tickets: \$19 adults, \$17 students and seniors. Farmington Players Barn Theater, 32332 W. 12 Mile Road, Farmington Hills. 7:30 p.m. Jan. 23. 248-473-1848.

Live Nation "Motion City Soundtrack" With Set Your Goals, The Swellers and This Providence. Tickets: \$20. Clutch Cargo's, 65 E. Huron, Pontiac. 6 p.m. Jan. 29. www.livenation.com

Macomb Center for the Performing Arts "Amy Grant" A performance by the Grammy Award-winning contemporary Christian artist. Tickets: \$17-60. Macomb Center for the Performing Arts, 44575 Garfield Road, Clinton Township. 8 p.m. Jan. 22. 586-286-2222.

www.macombcenter.com

Magic Bag "Robert Gordon and the Gang They Couldn't Hang" A rock-a-billy show eaturing Slim Jim Phantom, Chris Spedding and Glen Matlock. Tickets: \$20. Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. 8 p.m. Jan. 24. 248-544-1991. www.themagicbag.com

Magic Bag "Lloyd Cole" A concert with his Small Ensemble. Tickets: \$18. Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. 8 p.m. Jan. 28. 248-544-1991. www.themagicbag.com

MSU College of Music "Faculty Concert" With Joseph Luloff on saxophone and Ron Newman on piano. Tickets: \$10 adults, \$8 seniors, free for students. Music Building Auditorium, Michigan State University, East Lansing. 8 p.m. Jan. 30. 517-355-3345. www.music.msu.edu

MSU College of Music "Faculty Concert" With Alan Nathan and Sangmi Lim on piano. Tickets: \$10 adults, \$8 seniors, free for students. Music Building Auditorium, Michigan State University, East Lansing. 7:30 p.m. Jan. 26. 517-355-3345. www.music.msu.edu

Olympia Entertainment "Mariah Carey" The Angels Advocate Tour. Tickets: \$59.75-125.75. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 7:30 p.m. Jan. 25. www.ticketmaster.com

Palmer Woods "Dwight Adams Ensemble" A Mardi Gras celebration with the jazz band. Tickets: \$35. Private home location given with purchase of tickets. Detroit. 8 p.m. Jan. 30. www.palmerwoods.org

DANCE

Eisenhower Dance Ensemble "NewDANCEfest VIII" A program of new repertory including premiere works by Laurie Eisenhower. Tickets: \$16 adults, \$12 seniors, \$8 students. Troy Performing Arts Center, 4777 Northfield Parkway, Troy. 7:30 p.m. Jan. 23. 248-559-2095. www.ede-dance.org

FESTIVALS

Ferndale DDA "Ferndale Blues Festival" Blues bands and artists will be performing, including the Tom Dennis Trio, Jocelyn B. Luther "BadMan" Keith and more. Prices vary by show. Various locations, Ferndale. Jan. 29 - Feb. 7. www.ferndalebluesfestival.org

FILM & VIDEO

Detroit Institute of Arts "Rigoletto" Part of the World Opera in Cinema series. Tickets: \$20. Detroit Film Theatre, 5200 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 6 p.m. Jan. 28, 1 p.m. Jan. 30. 313-833-7900. www.dia.org/dft

Detroit Institute of Arts "Red Cliff" The Japanese action film by director John Woo. Tickets: \$7.50 adults, \$6.50 students, seniors and DIA members. Detroit Film Theatre, 5200 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Jan. 15 - Jan. 24. 313-833-7900. www.dia.org/dft

Detroit Waldorf School "The Future of Food" A free screening and panel discussion for ages 18 and older. Detroit Waldorf School, 2555 Burns Ave., Detroit. 6:30 p.m. Jan. 29. 313-822-0300. www.detroitwaldorf.org

Marquis Theatre "My Fair Lady" Part of the Movies at the Marquis series. Tickets: \$3. Marquis Theatre, 135 E. Main, Northville. 7:30 p.m. Jan. 23. www.northville.org

Marquis Theatre "The Thomas Crown Affair" Part of the Movies at the Marquis series. Tickets: \$3. Marquis Theatre, 135 E. Main, Northville. 7:30 p.m. Jan. 30. www.northville.org

MSU Department of English "Trouble in Paradise" A showing of the 1932 comedic film. Free. MSU Main Library, Michigan State University, East Lansing. 7 p.m. Jan. 28.

Sundance Film Festival "Sundance Film Festival U.S.A." A local showing of "Cyrus," as part of the Sundance festival. Tickets: \$15. Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor. 7:30 p.m. Jan. 28. www.michtheater.org

OTHER

All Creatures ULC "All Creatures ULC Spiritual Service" Pets are always welcome at our services. We are the perfect place for people who want to include their pets in their spiritual life. Dunk N Dogs Pet Wash, 27911 Five Mile Rd., Livonia. Oct. 18 - March 28. 313-563-0162. www.allcreaturesulc.com

SHOWS

Longway Planetarium "Classic Rock Laser Shows" A laser show with music from Pink Floyd. Tickets: \$8. Longway Planetarium, 1221 E. Kearsley, Flint. 8 p.m. Jan. 23. 810-237-3400. www.sloanlongway.org

The Whiting "Sinbad" A performance by the stand-up comedian. Tickets: \$12-39. The Whiting, 1241 E. Kearsley, Flint. 7 p.m. Jan. 30. 810-237-7333. www.thewhiting.com

University Musical Society "Fondly Do We Hope...Fervently Do We Pray" A performance by Bill T. Jones and the Arnie Zane Dance Company. Tickets: \$18-44. Power Center, 121 Fletcher, Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Jan. 22, 8 p.m. Jan. 23. www.ums.org

THEATER

BENEFITS AND FUNDRAISERS

FONTS! A Type of Musical A one-act show written by local authors about the adventures of several computer typefaces that find meaning in their lives. A fundraiser for Spotlight Players, the resident adult theater group at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill. \$10. Spotlight Players, The Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Rd., Canton. Jan. 22 - 24. 734-394-5300. www.spotlightplayersmi.org

CIVIC/COMMUNITY THEATER

Altar Boyz \$15. Peppermint Creek Theatre Company, Old Town Temple Building, 500 E Grand River, Lansing. Jan. 28 - Feb. 6. 517-927-3016. www.peppermintcreek.org

Book of Days \$10. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Dr., Lansing. Through Jan. 24. 517-482-5700. www.riverwalktheatre.com

Escanaba in da Moonlight \$18. St. Dunstan's Guild of Cranbrook, 400 Lone Pine Rd., Bloomfield Hills. Through Jan. 31. 248-737-3587. www.stdunstanstheatre.com

Is He Dead? \$17-\$22. Kalamazoo Civic Theatre, Civic Auditorium, 329 S. Park St., Kalamazoo. Jan. 29 - Feb. 13. 269-343-1313. www.kazoocivic.com

Jungle Book \$6-\$8. Thebes Players, Lowell Performing Arts Center, 11700 Vergennes St., Lowell. Jan. 29 - Feb. 7. 616-897-8545. www.lowellartscouncil.org

Mark Twain's Is He Dead? A Michigan premiere. \$15. The Players Guild of Dearborn, 21730 Madison, Dearborn. Through Jan. 31. 313-561-TKTS. www.playersguildofdearborn.org

Mr. Marmalade \$22. Actors' Theatre, Spectrum Theater, 160 Fountain St NE, Grand Rapids. Jan. 28 - Feb. 6. 616-234-3946. www.actorstheatregrandrapids.com

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee \$17-\$22. Kalamazoo Civic Theatre, Parish Theatre, 426 S. Park St., Kalamazoo. Extended through Feb. 7. 269-343-1313. www.kazoocivic.com

The 2nd Annual Kalamazoo Improv Festival \$10, and a free midnight show. Crawlspace Theatre Productions, Whole Art's Epic Theatre, 359 S. Kalamazoo Mall, Kalamazoo. Jan. 21 - 23. 269-599-7390. www.crawlspaceeviction.com

The Full Monty \$16-\$18. Stagecrafters, Baldwin Theatre, 415 S. Lafayette Ave., Royal Oak. Through Feb. 7. 248-541-6430. www.stagecrafters.org

The Importance of Being Earnest \$15. Village Players of Birmingham, 34660 Woodward Ave., Birmingham. Jan. 22 - Jan. 31. 248-644-2075.

www.birminghamvillageplayers.com

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY THEATER

Eurydice \$20. The University Theatre, York Arena Theatre at the Gilmore Theatre Complex, 1903 W. Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo. Jan. 28 - Feb. 7. 269-387-6222. www.wmutheatre.com

Ravenswood \$10-\$12. The Studio Theatre downstairs at the Hilberry Theatre, 4743 Cass Ave., Detroit. Jan. 28 - Feb. 6. 313-577-2972. www.wsushows.com

PROFESSIONAL THEATER

A Midsummer Night's Dream
Plays in rotating repertory. \$25-\$30. Hilberry Theatre, 4743 Cass Ave., Detroit. Through Jan. 29. 313-577-2972. www.wsushows.com

A Song for Coretta \$17-\$20. Detroit Repertory Theatre, 13103 Woodrow Wilson, Detroit. Through March 21. 313-868-1347. www.detroitreptheatre.com

Act Your Wage...The Pink Slip and Fall of an Automotive CEO \$15-\$20. Andiamo Novi Theatre, 42705 Grand River Ave., Novi. Through March 14. 248-348-4448. www.ticketmaster.com

Based on a Totally True Story A
Michigan premiere. \$10-\$20. Who Wants Cake Theatre, The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Through Feb. 1. 248-545-5545. www.whowantscaketheatre.com

Boeing-Boeing \$30-\$39. Meadow Brook Theatre, 2200 N. Squirrel Rd., Rochester. Through Jan. 31. 248-377-3300. www.mbttheatre.com

Cirque Dreams Illumination \$25-\$67. Broadway Grand Rapids, DeVos Performance Hall, 303 Monroe Ave., Grand Rapids. Jan. 26 - 31. 616-235-6285. www.broadwaygrandrapids.org

Escanaba \$20-\$38. The Purple Rose Theatre Company, 137 Park St., Chelsea. Through Jan. 23. 734-433-7673. www.purplerosetheatre.org

Fridays and Saturdays at Go Comedy!
\$15 for "Showdown", "Dark Matter" is free. Go Comedy! Improv Theater, 261 E. Nine Mile Rd., Ferndale. Through Jan. 30. 248-327-0575. www.gocomedy.net

Glengarry Glen Ross \$16. What's That Smell, The Box Theatre, 70 Macomb Place, Mt. Clemens. Jan. 29 - Feb. 14. 586-954-2311.

I Do! I Do! \$10. What's That Smell, The Box Theatre, 70 Macomb Place, Mt. Clemens. Jan. 22 - 23. 586-954-2311.

Jersey Boys Tickets begin at \$34 (inclusive of parking & facility fees). Broadway in Detroit, Fisher Theatre, 3011 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit. Through Jan. 23. 313-872-1000. www.broadwayindetroit.com

K2 \$27-\$41. Performance Network Theatre, 120 E. Huron St., Ann Arbor. Through Feb. 7. 734-663-0681. www.performancenetwork.org

Menopause the Musical \$40-\$50. Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. Jan. 26 - 27. 1-800-745-3000. www.michtheater.org

Menopause the Musical \$42. Miller Auditorium, 2200 Auditorium Dr, Kalamazoo. Jan. 29 - 30. 269-387-2300. www.millerauditorium.com

Monday Nights @ Planet Ant \$5. Planet Ant Theatre, 2357 Caniff, Hamtramck. 313-365-4948. www.planetant.com

Murderer \$14-\$16. Broadway Onstage Live Theatre, 21517 Kelly Rd., Eastpointe. Through Feb. 6. 586-771-6333. www.broadwayonstage.com

Shoulder to the Wheel \$15. Volcano Productions, Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron St., Ypsilanti. Jan. 28 - 31. 734-834-1483.

Snowbound A Late Night show. \$10. Planet Ant Theatre, 2357 Caniff St., Hamtramck. Through Jan. 23. 313-365-4948. www.planetant.com

Sundays at Go Comedy! \$5 per show or \$10 for the evening. Go Comedy! Improv Theater, 261 E. Nine Mile Rd., Ferndale. 248-327-0575. www.gocomedy.net

Taylor Mason \$17-\$52. Macomb Center for the Performing Arts, 44757 Garfield Rd., Clinton Township. Jan. 23. 586-286-2222. www.macombcenter.com

The Lady With All The Answers A
Michigan premiere. Previews Jan. 28-29. \$25-\$27. Tipping Point Theatre, 361 E Cady St, Northville. Jan. 28 - Feb. 28. 248-347-0003. www.tippingpointtheatre.com

The Last Five Years \$25. Magenta Giraffe Theatre Company, The Furniture Factory, 4126 Third St, Detroit. Through Jan. 23. 313-408-7269. www.magentagiraffe.org

The Seagull Plays in rotating repertory. \$25-\$30. Hilberry Theatre, 4743 Cass Ave., Detroit. Through Feb. 11. 313-577-2972. www.wsushows.com

The Servant of Two Masters Performed in repertory. \$25-\$30. Hilberry Theatre, 4743 Cass Ave., Detroit. Through March 27. 313-577-2972. www.wsushows.com

The Tale of the Allergists Wife
Previews Jan. 26-28 & 30. \$28-\$36. The Jewish Ensemble Theatre Company, Aaron DeRoy Theatre at the Jewish Community Center, 6600 W. Maple Rd., West Bloomfield. Jan. 26 - Feb. 21. 248-788-2900. www.jetttheatre.org

The Wizard of Oz \$24-\$79. Broadway in Detroit, Fisher Theatre, 3011 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit. Jan. 29 - Feb. 14. 313-872-1000. www.broadwayindetroit.com

Thursdays at Go Comedy! \$10 for the evening. Go Comedy! Improv Theater, 261 E. Nine Mile Rd., Ferndale. 248-327-0575. www.gocomedy.net

Wednesdays at Go Comedy! \$5 for the evening. Go Comedy! Improv Theater, 261 E. Nine Mile Rd., Ferndale. Through Jan. 27. 248-327-0575. www.gocomedy.net

Winter Colony Fest \$5 per night. Planet Ant Theatre, 2357 Caniff Ave., Hamtramck. Jan. 26 - 30. 313-365-4948. www.planetant.com

THEATER FOR YOUNG AUDIENCES

Elmo's Green Thumb \$12-\$32. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Jan. 29 - Feb. 15. 313-471-6611. www.olympiaentertainment.com

Jack Sprat Low-Fat World Tour
\$8. Wharton Center, Pasant Theatre, 1 Wharton Center Dr., East Lansing. Jan. 31. 517-432-2000. www.whartoncenter.com

The Crane Maiden \$10 adult, \$5 children. PuppetART, 25 E. Grand River, Detroit. Saturdays through Jan. 30. 313-961-7777. www.puppetart.org

AUDITIONS

Kalamazoo Civic Theatre - auditions for "All My Sons" and "The Dixie Swim Club," Feb. 7-8, 269-363-2280.

HOW TO CONTACT 'THEATER EVENTS' AND 'CURTAIN CALLS' Please send all press releases and promotional materials at least three weeks prior to the scheduled event, and your story ideas, comments, brickbats and accolades - preferably via e-mail - to curtaincalls@pridesource.com or by snail-mail to Curtain Calls, Between The Lines, 11920 Farmington Road, Livonia, Michigan 48150. Unless otherwise noted, ticket prices shown above are for adult general admission tickets only; please contact the theater for questions regarding the availability of discount tickets for preview performances, advance sales, groups, students, seniors and children. Complete listings can be found online at www.pridesource.com/happenings.phtml.

ART'N' AROUND

ART & ARCHITECTURE

Arab American National Museum
"From Mocha to Latte" Coffee, the Arab World and the \$4 Cup. Free cup of coffee with admission. Runs through Aug. 15. Museum admission: \$6 adults,

\$3 students and seniors. Arab American National Museum, 13624 Michigan Ave., Dearborn. 313-582-2266. www.arabamericanmuseum.org

Community Arts @ Paramount Gallery
"No DouBts" Works by Shereena Osai. Paramount Gallery, 22635 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Jan. 15 - Feb. 15. 248-414-6500.

Costick Center "Metallics" Opening of a photography exhibit by Janna Bissett. Costick Center City Gallery, 28600 W. 11 Mile Road, Farmington Hills. 6 p.m. Jan. 22. www.ci.farmington-hills.mi.us

Detroit Institute of Arts "Worth a Thousand Words" Prints and drawings related to books, with pieces from "The Brothers Grimm," "Moby Dick" and more. Museum admission: \$12 adults, \$6 youth, free for members. Detroit Institute of Arts, 5200 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Nov. 18 - Feb. 20. 313-833-7900. www.dia.org

Detroit Institute of Arts "Government Support for the Arts" Works Progress Administration prints from the 1930s. Museum admission: \$12 adults, \$6 youth, free for members. Detroit Institute of Arts, 5200 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Nov. 18 - March 21. 313-833-7900. www.dia.org

Detroit Institute of Arts "Drop-in Workshop" Bookarts: The Altered Book. Museum admission: \$8 adults, \$6 seniors, \$4 youth. Detroit Institute of Arts, 5200 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Jan. 8 - Jan. 29. 313-833-7900. www.dia.org

Detroit Institute of Arts "Drop-in Workshop" Paper dolls. Museum admission: \$8 adults, \$6 seniors, \$4 youth. Detroit Institute of Arts, 5200 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Jan. 2 - Jan. 30. 313-833-7900. www.dia.org

Detroit Institute of Arts "Drop-in Workshop" Winter Counts. Museum admission: \$8 adults, \$6 seniors, \$4 youth. Detroit Institute of Arts, 5200 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Jan. 3 - Jan. 31. 313-833-7900. www.dia.org

Detroit Science Center "Accidental Mummies of Guanajuato" The world debut of a new traveling mummy exhibition. Tickets: \$24.95 adults, \$22.95 seniors and \$19.95 children. Detroit Science Center, 5020 John R. Street, Detroit. Oct. 10 - Jan. 31. 313-577-8400. www.detroitsciencecenter.org

Eastern Michigan University Art Department "Electra Stamelos" An exhibition of painted works. Ford Gallery, Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti. Jan. 11 - Feb. 26. 734-487-0465. www.emich.edu/fordgallery

Henry Ford Museum "Engines Exposed" An exhibit featuring 50 classic cars, including a 1919 Model T, 1923 Chevrolet and more. Admission: \$15 adults, \$14 seniors, \$11 youth. Henry Ford Museum, 20900 Oakwood Blvd., Dearborn. Jan. 9 - Jan. 30. 313-982-6001. www.thehenryford.com

Jewish Community Center of Metro Detroit "Under the Watchful Eye: The Chamsah Project" A free exhibit of chamasaahs. Free program, "Kabbalah and You," will be held 4 p.m. Feb. 21 in conjunction with the exhibit. Jewish Community Center, 6600 W. Maple, West Bloomfield. Jan. 10 - March 7. 248-432-5579. www.jccdet.org

Kalamazoo Institute of Arts "Woodcuts in Modern China" 1937-2008, Toward a Universal Pictorial Language. An exhibit of 65 Chinese woodblock prints. Free. Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, 314 S. Park, Kalamazoo. Jan. 23 - April 18. 269-349-7775. www.kiarts.org

Kalamazoo Institute of Arts "The Art of Warner Bros. Cartoons" Over 160 drawings, paintings, cels and other art from Warner's classic cartoons. Free. Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, 314 S. Park, Kalamazoo. Dec. 12 - Feb. 21. 269-349-7775. www.kiarts.org

Kalamazoo Institute of Arts "Library Storytime" "I Know an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly." Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, 314 S. Park, Kalamazoo. 11:15 a.m. Jan. 23. www.kiarts.org

Kalamazoo Institute of Arts "Fear and Folly" The Visionary Prints of Francesco Goya and Federico Castellon. Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, 314 S. Park, Kalamazoo. Jan. 30 - May 23. www.kiarts.org

Kresge Art Museum "American Modernism" An exhibition of works created in the 1920-1940s. Free. Kresge Art Museum, Michigan State University, East Lansing. Jan. 11 - March 14. 517-353-9834. www.artmuseum.msu.edu

Lawrence Street Gallery "Beat the Blues" A member exhibition with paintings, photography and more. Lawrence Street Gallery, 22620 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Jan. 6 - Jan. 30. 248-544-0394. www.lawrencestreetgallery.com

Lowell Area Arts Council "It's A Jungle (Book) Exhibition" Works inspired by "The Jungle Book" by local artists. Lowell Area Arts Council Gallery, 149 S. Hudson, Lowell. Jan. 12 - Feb. 6. 616-897-8545. www.lowellartscouncil.org

Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum "Breaking the Mold" Contemporary Chinese and Japanese Ceramic Sculpture. Marshall M. Fredericks

Sculpture Museum, Saginaw Valley State University, Saginaw. Oct. 2 - Jan. 28. www.marshallfredericks.org

Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum "Textile Extensions" Quilts in a New Context, the work of Carole Harris. Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum, Saginaw Valley State University, Saginaw. Oct. 2 - Jan. 28. www.marshallfredericks.org

MSU Museum "Unpacking Collections" The Legacy of Cuesta Benberry, an African-American Quilt Scholar. Showing in the Heritage Gallery. Runs through Sept. 5, 2010. MSU Museum, Michigan State University, East Lansing. <http://museum.msu.edu>

MSU Museum "Dear Mr. Mandela, Dear Mrs. Parks" Children's Letters, Global Lessons. Showing in the Main Gallery. MSU Museum, Michigan State University, East Lansing. Dec. 20 - April 30. <http://museum.msu.edu>

Saugatuck Center for the Arts "Micro/Macro" Views of the Saugatuck and Douglas Shoreline, by John Fleming and Bill Werme. Free. Saugatuck Center for the Arts, 400 Culver, Saugatuck. Jan. 11 - March 1. 269-857-2399. www.sc4a.org

Sloan Museum "Predators" A hands-on exhibit offering insight into the lives of some of the most dangerous animals on land, sea, and in the sky Museum admission: \$6 adults, \$5 seniors, \$4 youth. Sloan Museum, 1221 E. Kearsley, Flint. Jan. 23 - May 2. 810-237-3400. www.sloanlongway.org

The Butcher's Daughter "No Vacancy" A group exhibition with work by over 20 artists from around the country. The Butcher's Daughter Gallery, 22747 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Jan. 9 - Feb. 23. www.thebutchersdaughtergallery.com

University of Michigan Museum of Art "The Eye of the Beholder" European drawings and prints from the Pulgram-McSparran Collection. University of Michigan Museum of Art, 525 S. State, Ann Arbor. Dec. 19 - March 14. 734-763-UMMA. www.umma.umich.edu

University of Michigan Museum of Art "Cory Arcangel" A solo exhibition by the New York-based artist. Free. University of Michigan Museum of Art, 525 S. State, Ann Arbor. Jan. 16 - April 10. 734-763-UMMA. www.umma.umich.edu

University of Michigan Museum of Art "Tradition Transformed" Works by Chang Ku-nien, master painter of the 20th century. University of Michigan Museum of Art, 525 S. State, Ann Arbor.

Jan. 23 - April 18. 734-763-UMMA. www.umma.umich.edu

University of Michigan Museum of Art "An Economy of Means" The Dorothy and Herbert Vogel Collection. University of Michigan Museum of Art, 525 S. State, Ann Arbor. Jan. 30 - May 2. 734-763-UMMA. www.umma.umich.edu

Urban Institute for Contemporary Arts "(S)Edition: Prints as Activism" A juried international printmaking competition. Urban Institute for Contemporary Arts, 41 Sheldon Blvd., Grand Rapids. Dec. 11 - March 5. www.uica.org

Urban Institute for Contemporary Arts "Suspended Presence" An exhibit of drawings and sculptures by Lisa Kellner. Urban Institute for Contemporary Arts, 41 Sheldon Blvd., Grand Rapids. Dec. 11 - Jan. 22. www.uica.org

Urban Institute for Contemporary Arts "The Economist Series" With works by Mira Burack and Narine Kchikian. Urban Institute for Contemporary Arts, 41 Sheldon Blvd., Grand Rapids. Dec. 11 - Jan. 22. www.uica.org

Urban Institute for Contemporary Arts "Complications May Occur" Works by Carrie Olson. Urban Institute for Contemporary Arts, 41 Sheldon Blvd., Grand Rapids. Dec. 11 - Jan. 22. www.uica.org

Urban Institute for Contemporary Arts "Atrocities" Works by Joel Seah. Urban Institute for Contemporary Arts, 41 Sheldon Blvd., Grand Rapids. Dec. 11 - Jan. 22. www.uica.org

Urban Institute for Contemporary Arts "Compositions" Ceramic works by Juliane Beth Shibata. Urban Institute for Contemporary Arts, 41 Sheldon Blvd., Grand Rapids. Dec. 11 - March 5. www.uica.org

Wayne County Community College "The Creators" Self-portraits by Gigi Boldon, Chin Hui Pak, Sabrina Nelson and more. Brown and Juanita C. Ford Gallery, 1001 W. Fort Street, Detroit. Dec. 3 - Jan. 30. 313-496-2510. www.wcccd.edu

► Stranded

Continued from p. 17

down clumsily and painfully to join him. They are on a ledge, a small, flat place. Exploring their surroundings, the ambulatory man finds that above them and on either side is the icy, blue, nearly flat face of the mountain they call K2; at the downstage edge is a sheer drop.

Then, discovering they've both survived, he cries out "We're alive!" and then must catch his breath in this thinnest of atmospheres.

As openings go, this one's a grabber and the play is not about to let go, thanks largely to James Bowen and John Manfredi as the mountaineers, Harold (the one with a broken leg) and Taylor; Rhoze's meticulous direction, and the mountain itself, designed by Daniel C. Walker.

Predominantly vertical, the mountain is also a thing of outcroppings and angles, toeholds and facets. Although it's a gripping, suspenseful life-or-death

story, "K2" is itself multi-faceted. As they consider their possibilities and take action, Harold and Taylor engage in wide-ranging, character-revealing conversation.

Harold, the more voluble of the two, is a physicist and something of a philosopher; he is devoted to his wife and son. Taylor may be no less complicated but he's not as eloquent. A prosecuting attorney, he sees things more as black or white; he is single and whatever the opposite of romantic is.

Still, for all Harold's talk about physics and theology, the play has only three possible outcomes: both survive; they both die; one makes it and the other doesn't. (Don't worry about the fourth outcome, the existential one where both men are left on the ledge in perpetual ambiguity.)

Therefore, during much of the time Bowen is speaking, Manfredi is tying

R E V I E W

'K2'

Performance Network Theatre, 120 E. Huron St., Ann Arbor. Thursday-Sunday through Feb. 7. \$27-\$41. 734-663-0681. www.performancenetwork.org

knots, testing ropes, seeking footholds and climbing up the set. It's impossible to look away. The playwright appears to do his speaking man no favor, but just as he is Taylor's anchor on his climbing maneuvers, Harold anchors the play as well: what he says is necessary for the action to proceed as it does.

And what Harold says and what Taylor does are the heat and the fuel to ignite the post-show conversations that are sure to make for an interesting ride home.



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Horoscopes By Jack Fertig

Explore, Cancer!

Jupiter is entering Pisces, where he'll spend the next few months. Usually spending a year in a sign, Jove is pretty zippy right now, so take quick advantage of "the greater benefic" while he's comfortably in his own sign. Spiritual insights and artistic inspirations are especially helpful now.

ARIES (March 20 – April 19): Feather your nest and get cozy. Your best times now will be spent in quiet retreat, studying and meditating. While that sounds contrary to your very extroverted nature, you will find a lot of opportunity and strength in those quiet moments.

TAURUS (April 20 – May 20): Build connections with your friends. Share plans and fantasies for the future, the wilder the better. Out of those extreme visions you'll find surprisingly practical directions. New passions are probably not love, but should be great fun, also offering deep insight!

GEMINI (May 21- June 20): Trust your instincts to get you ahead in your career, which will in turn help you build stronger relationships. Crazy, mystical clues will offer you advantages that straightforward logic won't. Music and poetry will help point the way.

CANCER (June 21- July 22): Let your mind explore new realms. If you can afford the tickets, take your body along for the ride. New perspectives will offer new tips that will help you at work and in taking care of your health.

LEO (July 23 – August 22): The planet of opportunity is offering you even more erotic charisma, as if you need it! Play as you like, but you could also sublimate that energy into pursuits of artistic brilliance or greater psychological or metaphysical depth.

VIRGO (August 23 – September 22): Learn the lyrics to the "Habanera" from "Carmen." Put more of your social life into the arts and/or charitable service. If you don't meet that special someone you will at least meet lots of special people.

LIBRA (September 23 – October 22): Despite the economy, you should be able to move into as good a job as you are qualified for. Learning some new skills will put the icing

on the cake. It's also time to make changes in your health regimen.

SCORPIO (October 23 – November 21): New creative channels are opening up for you. They could even prove to be lucrative. Don't give up your day job quite yet, but explore whatever arts, hobbies or games bring you joy. You're sure to get something out of it!


SAGITTARIUS (November 22 – December 20): This would be the time to improve your home, whether that's a bit of re-organizing or a change of address. Heal family rifts, and get involved in community affairs. You can hardly go wrong!

CAPRICORN (December 21 – January 19): Your sign's reputation for being tight-lipped and pragmatic could be drowned by garrulous, poetic outpourings. You may want to be careful about what you say to whom, but pick your confidantes and let it all out!

AQUARIUS (January 20 – February 18): Money wants to come your way; do your best to encourage it. Foresight and discipline will help, but trust your instincts. Friends and networks can help you build your wealth, but too many want to take advantage. Pick your pals wisely!

PISCES (February 19 – March 19): The next few months bring you especially good luck in both personal matters and professional advancement. Do your homework and push yourself forward. There is a danger now of weight gain, so stay active!

Jack Fertig, a professional astrologer since 1977, is available for personal and business consultations in person in San Francisco, or online everywhere. He can be reached at 415-864-8302, through his Web site at www.starjack.com, and by e-mail at QScopes@qsyndicate.com.



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Solution to puzzle from page 26

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Dear Jody

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In another abusive relationship

Q. I got out of an abusive relationship three years ago. Now I'm afraid I'm in another one. I thought I would never be in another one because I wouldn't pick an abusive person again. It took me six and a half years to get out of the old one. "Gerry" was hard to get away from; he threatened to kill me if I left him. Finally, I moved out of state to get away from him. (That took a lot for me to do, not just because I still loved Gerry, but logistically, it was very hard.) I'm quite sure he doesn't know where I live now, but I guess it doesn't matter because I'm back with another Gerry. The guy's name is "Damon."

When I moved here to Michigan, I promised myself that I would start new: new job, new friends and hopefully a new love – without abuse this time. I was so determined. Well, I got two out of three. The new love is as bad as – or worse than – Gerry, like going from the pot to the cauldron.

I met Damon two months after I came here. He was so gentle and good to me. I couldn't believe how he treated me and all the attention I got from him. He wanted me with him all the time. He acted like he really cared for me. He even got really jealous if any guys even looked my way. I had told him about Gerry and that he used to smack me around. That's how I put it because I didn't like the word "abuse." At the time, he would just look at me with this terrible look on his face. I thought that he was as horrified as I was by the abuse from Gerry, but now I'm not sure what he was thinking when I told him, because now he says that he sees why Gerry had to smack me – though, in fact, Damon does far worse than smack. He punches and kicks – in places that don't show bruises.

Damon doesn't like my family and doesn't allow me to see them. I decided on Michigan because many people in my family live here. But now I don't even get to see them because of Damon. When I ask him why I can't see them, he says it's because they don't like him and I should respect him by not associating with them either. I realize that my family, for the most part, is rather uncool to Damon, but not so much that he couldn't be there.

He also doesn't like my friends. He has reasons why he doesn't like each one of my friends. Mostly the reasons seem lame. He thinks one of them is hot after me – that's most of my guy friends. With my female friends, he says that they are a bad influence on me – how so, I surely don't know. So, I don't see them anymore. He doesn't think he needs to explain

himself. I would just once like some evidence of "being hot after me" or being a "bad influence." I'm starting to feel like maybe I just deserve what I get. (Just to be fair to Damon, he can be so very sweet and attentive, and he likes to buy me presents.)

I'm feeling lonely these days and mad at myself for getting into another relationship like this. I don't know how I got here again, and this time, I'm not sure how I'll get out. Damon hasn't threatened me like Gerry did, but then, I've not made any noise about leaving him either. I don't have it in me to move again and start over, especially in a place that I wouldn't know anyone – moving here I had some old friends and family. I'm feeling depressed and hopeless.

Jody, how did I do this again?

Battle Fatigue

A. To start with the question of how you got into another abusive relationship, you didn't learn the signs – red flags – of abusers: possessiveness, getting their victims isolated from family and friends, and "making up" for the abuse by bringing presents and/or being extra nice after an abusive episode. You didn't say, but I would guess that Gerry did that kind of thing as well.

I'm concerned about your depression, because depression saps energy. You need to visit your doctor, tell him/her what's happening, and see if you can get on an antidepressant so that you can function better in order to get yourself out of this situation. (Don't let Damon know the true reason you are going to your physician.) After that, you need to see if your family and friends would give you a place to stay for a while, or find a shelter for people who are battered. There are places for men as well. Your physician may know of a place; if not, call a shelter and ask. A shelter is a good place because they have people and counselors who will help you in the ways that you need it. If you don't find shelter, then you need to find a counselor so that you can get support and learn how to not get into another relationship like this again; otherwise, you are likely to do it a third time. Good luck, and let me know how things go. I care.

Jody Valley spent 12 years as a clinical social worker. She worked with the LGBT community both as a counselor and a workshop leader in the areas of coming out, self-esteem and relationship issues. Reach Jody at DearJodyValley@hotmail.com. The "Dear Jody" column appears weekly.

Rhonda L. Kobold, D.O. and Becky J. Smith, D.O., PC



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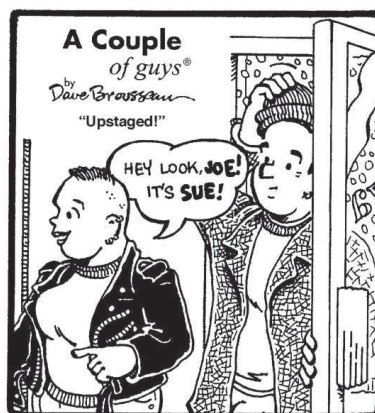
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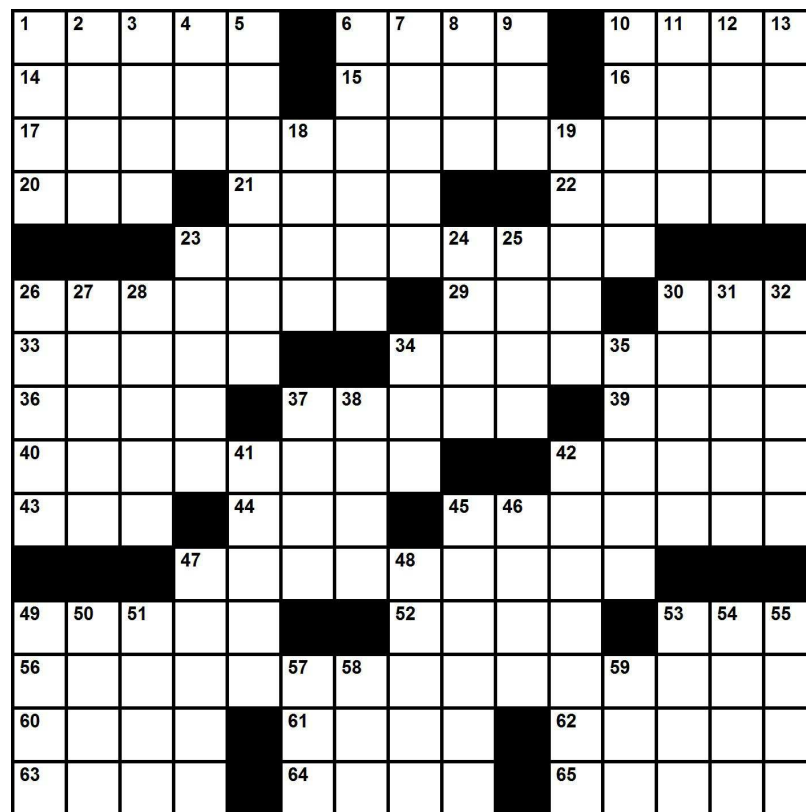
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Q Puzzle

Better Than Sex



Across

- 1 Went down on with gusto
- 6 Counterfeiters' nemesis
- 10 Moves the head
- 14 Whale finder
- 15 Gore Vidal's "At ____"
- 16 Role for Ron Howard
- 17 Start of a quip about why 47-Across is better than sex
- 20 Silly goose
- 21 Big beer buy
- 22 Lubricated
- 23 More of the quip
- 26 1985 Kelly McGillis movie
- 29 Cartoon prince's son

- 30 Durango day
- 33 Mistake by Glenn Burke
- 34 Making a nothing-but-net sound
- 36 Reposed
- 37 More of the quip
- 39 Hathaway of "Brokeback Mountain"
- 40 Workplace for Michelangelo
- 42 Get in shape
- 43 Part of a giggle
- 44 "____" was saying
- 45 "Queer," before the Fab Five
- 47 It can be better than sex
- 49 "My Own Private ____"
- 52 Paycheck abbr.
- 53 Aladdin's monkey

- 56 End of the quip
- 60 It's sold in bars
- 61 The life of Riley
- 62 JFK and LBJ
- 63 Easy partner
- 64 Parting words
- 65 Fruit drink

Down

- 1 Nick was his master
- 2 Pulls behind
- 3 Grandson of Adam
- 4 Motor City org.
- 5 Emily of "CSI: Miami"
- 6 Main argument

- 7 Impressionist Claude
- 8 HBO alternative
- 9 Three R's org.
- 10 Like a superbly pitched game
- 11 Lesbian character in "She's Gotta Have It"
- 12 Emulate Greg Louganis
- 13 Watermelon "ammo"
- 18 Animal mouths
- 19 Sentence subjects, often
- 23 Hole ____ (ace to Sheehan)
- 24 Goldie of "The Banger Sisters"
- 25 Pg. in a photocopier
- 26 Like the Ladies of Llangollen
- 27 About to blow
- 28 Cock-and-bull story
- 30 Shore of Palm Springs
- 31 Lint trap?
- 32 Cut recipient
- 34 What Tim might call Tyne
- 35 Novelist Bret
- 37 Kiss from Kahló
- 38 Rocker Clapton
- 41 Lake site of gay and lesbian ski week
- 42 Many of its seamen went to the bottom
- 45 Says "Li'l Abner," say
- 46 How quickly one comes
- 47 Sevigny of "Boys Don't Cry"
- 48 Beneficial
- 49 Click it to go to AfterEllen.com
- 50 Limp watch painter
- 51 Mapa of "Desperate Housewives"
- 53 Surrounded by
- 54 ____ noire
- 55 Cold War rival of the USA
- 57 Young lady coming out
- 58 "A drop of golden sun"
- 59 Singer DiFranco

Solution to puzzle on page 24

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Sweet turnaround for Peggy Beck

Stereotypes have long held that there are no gay male athletes – but most female athletes are lesbians. However, ever since “The Front Runner,” authors have tackled the theme of gay male athletes far more often than females.

“Sweet Turnaround J” changes all that.

The second novel by Peggy Beck, it explores the life of 16-year-old Janey Holmes after her old school closes, and she joins a team that has not won a game in three years. Along the way she confronts her own temper, and falls in love with another girl.

Like Janey, Beck was a sports fanatic. Her father encouraged her love of athletics; her mother, concerned about raising a tomboy, was less enthusiastic. Growing up in Minnesota in the 1950s and '60s, Beck played every game imaginable—including football. But as she grew older, social strictures made coed play impossible.

With no real sports available, she went through "bad emotional stuff," Beck says. Recognizing her attraction to women made life even tougher. She gravitated to politics and folk singing. At Sarah Lawrence College, she wrote but did not show her work to anyone. "My whole life was secret," she says.

After earning a Ph.D. in the history of consciousness, she wrote fiction, poetry, articles and essays covering mythology, folklore and history. In middle age she recalled that she once wanted to be the best female basketball player in the world and decided to revisit that dream.

"I wanted to write about a girl obsessed with



Peggy Beck

basketball,” Beck says. “But I realized I didn’t know anything about it anymore.” She spent a year watching every practice of a team in New Mexico, where she lived. She went to the Amateur Athletic Union 15-year-old Nationals where she interviewed coaches. She attended other tournaments, and then became an assistant high school coach and a seventh grade girls’ coach.

She studied videos, read coaching books and interviewed plenty of players. "I wanted to get it right," Beck says.

She got it so right the first draft of her novel was 1,000 pages.

The lesbian element is important. Janey falls in love with her new best friend. The chapter where they kiss and make love is implied. Over the next two chapters, the reader agonizes as the

girls can't deal with what is going on. Janey goes through hell when Alejo won't talk to her.

During her long research, Beck had watched girls trying to figure out their feelings for other girls. She'd also heard the anti-gay remarks so typical on teams and in high schools. Because Beck had felt and heard the same things, her writing is strong and real.

But it did not become truly powerful until Beck changed the narrative from third person to first.

"Sweet Turnaround J" is not, however, only about lesbians.

"It always comes back to basketball," Beck says. "The gym is like the theater – every day is a rehearsal for a play." The novel includes alcohol abuse, parental issues, coaching issues – all the things teenagers of every sexual orientation deal with regularly.

But sexuality is often part of high school sports, and Beck does not shy from it. When Janey finally talks with a teammate, the other girl asks, "How did you know you were gay?"

"I always was," Janey says.

The coach encourages Janey and Alejo to follow their feelings. That doesn't always happen, Beck knows, but through her research into coaches and coaching styles, she realizes that the best coaches are supportive of all their athletes, whatever their personal feelings may be.

Like many young adult novels, "Sweet Turnaround J" is making its way slowly into libraries and onto suggested reading lists. Bloggers who discuss homophobia in women's basketball

have been positive and helpful.

One reviewer said that the author's "depiction of relationships is often missing in the male sports books, which focus more on narrative action. Beck's portrayal of a multicultural team with all the signifiers suggests an observant eye and much research . . . (We) discover the important lessons and human strength that basketball or any sport can teach in the drive toward winning games and learning life's lessons."

"I live in a complete fantasy world, where everyone will want to read it," Beck admits. While she has heard nothing negative so far, she understands that a gay protagonist may cause some young readers to steer clear.

Beck hopes that does not happen. "I'll feel really badly if it gets pigeonholed. I think girls who aren't lesbian can find a lot in the book to enjoy and learn from," she says.

"There are no sports books for girls, gay or straight," Beck says. "They're the lowest of the low on the totem pole. Hundreds of thousands of girls play sports. They need to read about their world."

Visit www.sweetturnaroundj.com for more information, including ordering information and links to basketball websites.

Dan Woog is a journalist, educator, soccer coach, gay activist, and author of the "Jocks" series of books on gay male athletes. Visit his Web site at www.danwoog.com. He can be reached care of this publication or at OutField@qsyndicate.com.

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Scene Check

1



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 2. Jim and Keith
 3. Carl and Day Day
 4. Ricky, Justine and Jeff
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2



3



4



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Joseph Gordon-Levitt (pictured on the right) with Zooey Deschanel. Photo: 20th Century Fox

'Inception,' starring your 2009 gay indie crush

Maybe you swooned over Joseph Gordon-Levitt in last year's "(500) Days of Summer" or fell for adorable roller-derbying Ellen Page in "Whip It." Maybe you felt strangely turned on when Brit bruiser Tom Hardy got naked and violent in "Bronson" (which was pretty much the entire film). Well, then you're in luck because all three of them are in the new Christopher Nolan film, "Inception." The sci-fi thriller, on track for a summer release (they're saying July, at least for now), has something to do with blackmail and, well, who knows what else, really, but also

co-stars Leonardo DiCaprio, Marion Cotillard and Ken Watanabe. And if nothing else, the large ensemble nature of the cast list (PS, with Cillian Murphy, Tom Berenger, Michael Caine and Lukas Haas) makes Romeo think of those old all-star 1970s sci-fi/disaster movies with everyone from Fred Astaire to O.J. Simpson trying to escape a burning skyscraper, thereby increasing its must-see quotient by about a thousand percent.

Mia Kirshner goes 'Vampire'

Look, there's nothing wrong with Romeo's ongoing "L Word" fixation. Who cares if the show is long gone? Those lesbians will live in his heart forever. Also on his TV, it turns out,

tragically pool-dead Jenny Schecter (OK, her actual name is Mia Kirshner), who's hopped on over to the CW for a stint on "Vampire Diaries," airing any second now. Kirshner will have a recurring role as history teacher Alaric's (Matt Davis) wife. And that's all that's known at the moment, which is as it should be. Part of the fun of being a big fan of a silly TV show is obsessing over the possibilities. Will this series (one that, just to remind you, has gay Kevin Williamson in charge) finally move in a more homophobic direction? Will some sexy lady vampire bite Mia and turn her blood-sucky? Will this well-written show finally get the CW a little respect? And will Jenny (sorry, yes, Mia) stick around forever? The waiting to find out part is almost as good as watching the show itself.

Gays coming and going on 'Nurse Jackie'

If you failed to watch the first season of Showtime's brilliantly funny, nervy "Nurse Jackie," what the heck is wrong with you? You can catch up on reruns or with the DVD, but do so before the new season debuts early this year. Meanwhile, the gays on this show are leaving and arriving at a breakneck pace lately. Haaz Sleimann ("The Visitor"), who played the sardonic nurse Mo-Mo, is gone without a trace, with nothing but terse "his storyline played itself out" commentary from the creators. (They won't even say that guy's name, instead they just call him "the actor." Weird. Meanwhile, they ran out

of ideas for TV's one gay Muslim? Huh?) But big bearish Thor remains, a gay love triangle is on deck for the upcoming season, and Harvey Fierstein will have a guest spot in Nurse Jackie's domain as a man whose husband is dying. And one of these days we're going to hear the real deal from Sleimann. Can't wait for that one.

Kevin Smith plans to 'Hit Somebody'

His new movie "Cop Out" (previously titled "A Couple of Dicks," but changed when no one went to see "Zack and Miri Make a Porno") is set to hit theaters in the next couple of weeks. He's rumored to be co-starring with old pal Jason Mewes and "Twilight" girl-of-the-moment Kristen Stewart in the upcoming "K-11" (which would be a nice way to make up for "Catch and Release"). And it looks like his horror film, "Red State," is gaining get-made momentum. But director Kevin Smith's most promising project on the horizon looks like his planned hockey movie, "Hit Somebody." So far only one actor, Wil Wheaton ("Stand by Me"), is attached to the film, but if it's about hockey and tough guys and blood on the ice, and if Kevin Smith has anything to do with it, there will be just as much gayness as the guy can squeeze into that locker room. Without a doubt, Romeo's rooting for this one already.

Romeo San Vicente dated a hockey player once just because the regularly occurring black eyes were so sexy. He can be reached care of this publication or at DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com.

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